# The Journal

OF THE

# Jamaica Agricultural Society.

**The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.**

VOL. XXI. NOVEMBER, 1917. No. 11.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The usual meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the Office of the Society, 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, the 18th October, 1917, at 11.30 a.m. Present: Hon. P. C. Cork, C.M.G. (presiding); Hons. D. Campbell, R. P. Simmonds, S. S. Stedman; Messrs. R. Craig, A. W. Douet, A. W. Farquharson, H. Q. Levy, Adam Roxburgh, Conrad Watson, Rev. W. T. Graham and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

*Apologies for Absence.*—Apologies for absence were submitted from Sir Jno. Pringle, who wrote saying he would be going to the United States for a short time; Messrs. Martin, Muirhead and Dougall. In the absence of the Governor and Sir Jno. Pringle who were abroad, Mr. P. C. Cork took the Chair.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The Secretary said that a rough proof of the printed Minutes of the last Meeting had been sent to each member of the Board. A few corrections had been required to which effect had been given. A revised proof as ready for issue was now before each member. The Minutes were then confirmed.

*Statement of Accounts.*—Statement of Accounts was tabled as usual.

The following matters arising out of the previous Minutes were considered:—

(*a*) *Cable Quotations.*—The Secretary said he had written the C.S.O. as directed at the last meeting, but he had not heard officially from them. He had had a visit from a representative of the Cable Co., who had explained the situation. It was decided to await the reply from the Colonial Secretary.

(*b*) *Lack of Land.*—(1) C.S.O. letter No. 14837-17756, dated the 4th October, 1917, with printed extract of minute from the Surveyor General with regard to the lands at Content, St. Elizabeth.

As Messrs. Muirhead and Martin who were deputed at the last meeting to visit and report on the land, had not yet had time to report, the matter was deferred pending their report.

(2) A letter from the Santa Cruz Branch on the same subject was also deferred.

(*c*) *Loan Banks and the Agricultural Society.*—(1) Letter from the Secretary of the Loan Board. The Secretary said that as directed

by the last meeting of the Board, he had submitted the letter from the Hon. H. Cork to the Secretary of the Loan Board, and his reply was as follows:-

21st September, 1917.

"Your letter No. 2749 of yesterday's date was laid before my Board at their meeting, and I was instructed to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Board in reply to Mr. Cork's letter of the 1st instant, with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of a Loan Bank. Please see page 1 of the latter.

The enclosures sent in your letter under reply are sent herewith.

I am to add that it has long been the opinion of the Chairman of the Board that the Loan Banks and the Agricultural Society should be closely associated."

Sgd. C. J. B.,
Secretary.

Copy of letter to the Hon. H. Cork was as follows:-

3rd September, 1917.

"With reference to your letter of the 1st inst., can you give me any particulars as to which Banks are discounting papers for other purposes than agricultural and industrial ones? Any details will be of use.

The Board have heard of similar complaints, but it is very difficult to bring them home.

The Board's powers are limited, and properly so, to transactions in connection with which public moneys are advanced to the banks, but the experience of the Board is that committees of Banks, as a rule act within the regulations in discounting papers for their members, but I do not doubt for a moment that money is sometimes obtained for purposes other than those contemplated by their regulations.

The Board's experience is that on enquiring into such complaints they find that the complainant's real grievance is that he has failed to get a loan paper discounted because in the past he has not kept his obligations either in paying a former loan or keeping up his subscriptions to his shares, or both.

"Hoping you will be able to give further particulars."

Sgd. C. C. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

(2) A further letter from Mr. Cork was also presented as follows:

6th October, 1917.

"In reply to your Secretary's letter dated 21st September last written by your instructions, in which you ask whether I have any good arguments to bring forward so that the matter of the loan banks should be discussed, I have to say that an Agricultural Loan Bank is an institution for fostering cultivation of crops, not for accommodating traders, and if the Banks are misused in this manner they will come to grief and certainly will not serve the purpose for which they were intended.

"The Agricultural Society is more interested in seeing that the Banks are utilised for their proper purpose than any other body in Jamaica, and if it is the policy of the Board of Management to hold aloof in the manner you have indicated, it appears to me that the Board is missing one of its best opportunities for doing good to the peasant proprietory.

"Those who, like me, have striven to get the Savings Bank moneys lent out for developing lands, and have succeeded in getting the proposal approved, feel greatly disappointed that the money should be misapplied and that the Agricultural Society should hold aloof instead of working with the Loan Board and the agriculturists to make a success of the Banks.

"The question therefore arises as to whether we shall have to retrace our steps so as to arrest the misuse of those funds."

(Sgd.) H. CORK.

The Chairman said he did not think the Loan Banks shoul lend money for purposes other than to aid in cultivation. In th discussion that arose it was pointed out that the Banks were nc lending money advanced by the Government, but money subscribe by their own shares and accruing from interests and that the Rul governing Loan Banks permitted their lending this money as th local Committee thought fit.

Mr. Stedman said that the Government should provide a special Auditor for Loan Banks to audit the accounts of each bank at least once in 3 months.

Mr. Roxburgh suggested also that the Auditor should be a servant of the Government.

Mr. Farquharson said that he had no doubt the Loan Banks would be in a position to reply to any objections that were raised that the moneys lent them for specific purposes were being so applied, but that in reference to any bills discounted they were in a position under their Rules to discount bills, as provision was expressly made for that purpose. He (Mr. Farquharson) asked Mr. Simmonds as a member of the Loan Board to state whether loans made to the Agricultural Societies were not made on specific securities which were earmarked, thus preventing the possibility of moneys so lent being applied in discounting of bills. Mr. Simmonds stated that this was so.

The Chairman said that the remarks at the meeting were not meant in any way as a censure on the Loan Board which was doing all in its power to bring the Banks into line, but rather with a view to this Board of Management doing something to strengthen the hands of the Loan Board. He suggested that the matter need not be further pursued as there were several members of the Loan Board present who could act on what had been said if need be.

(d) *Embargo on Coffee.*- The Secretary said as instructed at the last meeting he had conferred with Mr. R. S. Gamble and drafted a proposed cablegram which had been submitted to the Acting Governor He read the following acknowledgements:—

No. 14888-19439. 5th October, 1917.

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter C.S.O. No. 64, dated the 2nd instant relative to the question of obtaining permission from the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the importation of Jamaica coffee into the United Kingdom, and to transmit for the information of your Society the accompanying copy of a telegram on the subject which was sent by His Excellency to Sir William Manning on the afternoon of the 3rd instant."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

*Copy of a Telegram which was sent by His Excellency to Sir William Manning on the 3rd instant*:—

"Agricultural Society desire following should be communicated to Secretary of State for Colonies begins, Agricultural Society for small producers urgently represent necessity for license ship Coffee so far as space available on steamers leaving here not full. They state large quantity last year's crop still held here and new crop not suffered to any extent. They are informed space available on Royal Mail steamers October, November, because difficult find sufficient cargo if coffee excluded. Message ends one owner desires this to restore his destroyed bananas."

No. 15480-20474. 18th October, 1917.

"In continuation of the letter from this Office, Nos. 14888-19439 dated the 5th instant, I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that the following telegram has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"With reference to your telegram 4th October to Manning with reference to shipment of Coffee, Board of Trade enquires approximate tonnage involved."

2. I am to ask whether your Society is in a position to supply the answer to the Board of Trade's enquiry."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

As representations had been made only on behalf of coffee and the destruction of bananas by the hurricane having altered the circumstances as regards cocoa, it was resolved now to ask the Government to include cocoa in the next cable to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was pointed out that cocoa growers who were also

growers of bananas as was commonly the case had now to depend on being able to dispose of their cocoa.

He was instructed to again confer with Mr. Gamble and the Chairman with the view of preparing an estimate of the coffee and cocoa in the Island which was available for shipment to the United Kingdom.

(c) *Letter from Director of Railway re Telephone Message.*—The Secretary read a letter from the Director of Railway as follows:—

No. 584. 21st September, 1917.

"I understand at yesterday's meeting of your Board of Management and during a discussion on the concession granted by the Railway to growers or sellers of Ground Provisions, it was suggested that I should be rung up on the telephone and be asked a certain question. I understand this was done and that your Board was informed that I had replied "That I knew nothing about the matter.

2. I beg now to inform you that I never received a telephone message from your Society and therefore could not have given reply as stated above, a reply which I think must have been obvious to your Board, could not have emanated from me.

3. Kindly place this letter before the Board at their next meeting as I am anxious to remove any feeling that may exist of discourtesy on my part towards your Board."

(Sgd.) S. COUPER,
Director Jamaica Government Railway.

The Secretary said he had written to the Director of Railway giving him the facts of the case as it had occurred, and pointing out that the Board did not take the matter as the Director suggested. He only presented the letter for the information of the Board, at the request of the Director of the Railway.

(f) *Sisal Factory at Lititz.*—The Secretary said that he had communicated with the Government as directed by a previous meeting, with regard to a factory for sisal at Lititz, and he now submitted their reply:—

No. 14810-15144. [illegible] October, 1917.

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, C. S. O. No. [illegible], dated the [illegible] instant, relative to the planting of sisal hemp on lands within easy reach of Lititz.

"I am to inform you in reply that the Director of Agriculture to whom your letter was referred, is entirely in favour of the erection of a Government fibre factory at Lititz and has recommended that it be erected on co-operative lines and that the matter be submitted to the Legislative Council at the next session so that the people could be [illegible] planting more sisal. The matter will be placed before the Governor on his return to the island for his favourable consideration.

"I am to add that the Director of Agriculture reports that the area his Department has been able up to the present to plant at Lititz would not justify the actual erection of a factory until March, [illegible], and that he proposed to ask for a vote to enable his Department to put in another 300 acres in 1918-19."

(Sgd. G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

This was considered satisfactory.

*Instructors' Committee.*—(a) The Instructors' Reports and Itineraries for September were presented, and the Secretary was directed to circulate as usual.

(b) *Competitions.*—The Secretary said that Messrs. Cradwick and Wates had recommended that the Cottage Holdings Competition which had previously been of such service in Eastern Portland and had been arranged to be continued this year should now be extended to include the whole of Portland and that the Parish might be divided into 3 Electoral districts, the sum of £10 being appropriated for prizes

in each district to be supplemented by the £5 which His Excellency Sir William Manning had already donated for the purpose.

The Secretary said that this matter had been before the Instructor's Committee and the details had been discussed. They were in favour of the proposal if funds were available. The Society had no funds; but the Committee had suggested that as the Government had arranged to make a grant to enable the Society to supply seeds and plants as hurricane relief a request might be made for £30 specially to admit of this competition being carried through this year. The Committee felt that each £1 spent on such competitions gave a tenfold return.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Committee, and the Secretary was directed to communicate with the Government accordingly.

Mr. Stedman said that the loss of coconut trees in E. Portland had been reported in the Press as not more than 30%, and in W. Portland about 7%. The statement even went on to say that larger crops would be reaped next year than have been reaped this year. He said the damage was much worse than any hurricane recently experienced, and was even worse than 1903. He said that the reports of Mr. Wates and the Secretary would show that the loss in Manchioneal district was over 90%.

(2) *Corn Growing Competition.*- A letter had been received by the Instructors' Committee from Mr. Lynch, Instructor for S. Manchester and S. Elizabeth, suggesting a corn growing competition for St. Elizabeth.

(3) *A Resolution from Bybrook Branch* was read as follows:—

"That in order to give an impetus to the growers of food crops that the Government be asked to offer tempting prizes to the Small Settler who within the next 8 or 9 months plants the largest and best kept field of catch crops. The money so granted for this purpose could be divided among the various Branch Societies in those parishes suffering most from the effects of the recent hurricane. Further that tenants on Crown Lands be given greater encouragement for the planting of more food crops so as to help us cope with the present food problem."

With regard to these two, the Secretary said the Instructors Committee were in accord with the suggestions and they would recommend that the Government should make a grant for these purposes if funds were available, but they did not press the matter.

Mr. Craig said he would like to know what idea of a grant the Secretary had received from the Government.

The Secretary said the Acting Governor had communicated with him immediately after the storm and it was left to him to estimate about what would be required. He had communicated with the Instructors and had prepared an estimate which he was presenting to the Board lower down on the Agenda.

Mr. Craig said he wanted to know what it was proposed to ask for and in what areas seed would be distributed.

The Secretary said that it was principally in Portland, parts of St. Thomas Ye East and the mountain districts in St. Andrew that distribution of seeds might be needed.

The Board decided to abide by the decision of the Instructors Committee and to ask the Government for funds to cover these items.

(c) Mr. Stedman said that there was one matter which the Committee had discussed, but which the Secretary had not presented. With regard to the Instructor for E. Portland the Committee had

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(c) Mr. Stedman said that there was one matter which the Committee had discussed, but which the Secretary had not presented. With regard to the Instructor for E. Portland the Committee had

recommended that as this Instructor has often been called upon to leave his district on special work and that he had never been reimbursed his extra travelling at any time, while he was again called upon for extra duties a grant should be made to cover his travelling expenses. The Board agreed to this.

Mr. Graham said there was a matter he would like to make reference to. He understood that the senior Instructor Mr. Cradwick, had asked for a typewriter to replace the one (his own property) he now had in use, and he would like to know if the typewriter had been granted to Mr. Cradwick.

Mr. Craig said that this matter had been considered by the Instructors' Committee that morning, and it was settled that the request could not be granted as there were no funds.

(d) *Appointment of Assistant Instructors.*—The Secretary stated that he had to report that one of the two Assistant Instructors appointed had applied for a Commission sometime in March, and not hearing from the military authorities he had answered the advertisement for the post of Assistant Instructor. He was selected by the Instructors' Committee and soon after he received notice that he had been granted a Commission. The Instructors' Committee decided to select the next candidate on the list who was Mr. J. A. Banks. Mr. Banks had lived in St. Mary for quite a long time, was a good cultivator, had been a President of a Branch Society, and he already had a good knowledge of the parish and conditions there. It had been suggested that the original arrangements be altered on account of the occurrence of the hurricane, and that both Assistants should start right away in St. Mary. They assumed their duties on the 15th October.

*Hurricane.*— (a) *Report on damage.*—

(1) *Instructors.*—The Secretary submitted reports from the Instructors on the storm damage. He said that these reports would be published in the JOURNAL and some had already been published in the newspapers. Mr. Wates had submitted a very complete report on the damage in his district which would be published.

(2) *Secretary's Report.*—The Secretary said he had been instructed to visit W. Portland and E. St. Thomas so that he might be able to present a first hand report to the Board of Management and in company with Messrs. Stedman, Cradwick and Wates he had visited some of the worst damaged areas and he now presented his report on his visit. This report and Mr. Wates' report would be published in the newspapers and a digest of most of the other Instructors' Report would be published in the JOURNAL.

(*b*) *Seed Relief.*—(1) C.S.O.Letter No. 14748-19398 of date the 2nd October, 1917, was read stating that Sir Jno. Pringle had suggested that as an emergency measure Mr. Cradwick should be sent to organize the distribution of seeds and plants in Portland and St. Thomas and saying also that it would not be desirable to wait for this direction at a meeting, and that Sir John had suggested that the Society should see the other Vice-Presidents of the Society and Mr Simmonds, the member for St. Mary and ask them to concur in this suggestion.

The Secretary said that he had acted on the direction of this letter and that Mr. Cradwick had been detailed accordingly. Already first consignments of seed had been sent on and some distributed, and lists of the recipients had been sent him.

(2) *Letter from C.S.O. re Potato Slips.*—The Secretary submitted letter from the C.S.O. 15226-19872 of date the 12th October, enclosing memo from the Director of Agriculture as follows—

No. G. 829. 8th October, 1917.

"With further reference to your letter No. 2756/3014/17 of the 27th February in which the Stock Farm was authorized to grow food crops at Hope, I have the honour to report that we have made serious efforts to push this enterprise and latterly in view of the food situation, to increase the area under cultivation.

2. We have now secured 29 acres in complete cultivation under sweet potatoes and a total area of 41 acres is now being established in this crop.

3. I recommend that use be made of this large area of sweet potatoes in the provision of planting material to the distressed districts through the Jamaica Agricultural Society and that the Farm be reimbursed for the sweet potato slips at the customary rate of 6d. per bundle of 25-28 lbs.

We would supply 4,500 bundles value £125 from now to the end of the year. Not all at once but in quantities mutually convenient to the Agricultural Society and the Farm. We could deliver the plants either to the Agricultural Society or to the Railway for transit to the centres of distribution.

If an allowance for these slips were made from the Hurricane Relief Expenditure it would help us to recoup some of our expenditure on this enterprise.

(Sgd.) H. H. COUSINS,
Director of Agriculture.

(3) *Assistance for Grand Cayman.*—The following letter from the C.S.O. was read:—

No. 15298-20297. 15th October, 1917.

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to forward herewith a copy of a letter which appeared in Saturday's issue of the Daily Gleaner over the signature of Mr. T. H. MacDermot, and to say that His Excellency would be much obliged if your Society would give consideration to the suggestion contained therein as to the despatch of an Agricultural Instructor from Jamaica to Grand Cayman with a supply of seeds and plants.

2. I am also to say that His Excellency would be glad to receive a report as to whether your Society think it is practicable to do this at the present time, and having in view the fact that it is desired that Mr. Cradwick, the senior Agricultural Instructor, should be taken off his ordinary work in order to undertake somewhat similar work in Portland and St. Thomas in Jamaica.

3. I am further to say that His Excellency would be obliged if you would at the same time report the estimated cost of such proposal being put into force after a short period.'"

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary said that this matter had been before the Instructors' Committee that morning, and they recommended that Mr. Briscoe might be sent as his district had suffered least and he could be spared. Mr. Briscoe was the only other Instructor beside Mr. Cradwick who received travelling allowance on the Government scale; the Government would therefore have to consider only the question of passage money.

The Secretary was instructed to forward the recommendation of the Committee to the Government.

(*c*) *Planting of Coconuts.*—The Secretary read letter from Mr Cradwick *re* the planting of coconuts after the Ceylon method. He was instructed to draw attention specially to the matter in the JOURNAL as it might be a useful practice for certain soils.

(*d*) *Lumber on Crown Lands.*—The following letters were received.

(1) *From Bath Branch:*—

"As President of the Bath Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, I am writing to ask you whether the Government will sell cedar trees on their Crown Lands—Mt. Donald or other adjacent Crown Lands—to people here who have lost their houses by the recent hurricane and who will find it impossible to rebuild with imported lumber the price of which is prohibitive in these parts."

(2) *From Portland Central.*—"I would like you to help us get from the Crown Lands some shingles and scantlings. If the Government will not allow individuals to go and split for themselves then they ought to arrange for the splitting and selling at actual cost to those who can buy and to others free at this time."

The Chairman said that ordinarily the reply to such a request would be "no", but that he thought under the circumstances caused by the hurricane that the Government would readily consent to such a proposal within a stated period, say for 6 months. Permits might be granted on the recommendation of Branch Societies to certain people to visit the Crown Lands to get lumber for the purpose of rebuilding their holdings.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Government asking for this permission.

(e) *Hurricane Loans.*—Resolutions on this subject were submitted as follows:—

(1) *From Mahoe Hill.*—"That in view of the disastrous hurricane of the 22nd September last, this Branch would respectfully ask the Government through the Parent Society to extend the time for the repayment of previous hurricane loans, seeing that their cultivations on which they depended for the repayment have again been completely destroyed by the said hurricane."

The Secretary was directed to inform this Society that application should be made to the Loan Board.

(2) *From Free Hill.*—"That whereas for 3 successive years our fields have been devastated by storms, and whereas, the Banana, our staple product has been wiped out by these storms leaving a great many of our men in debt and without the means to start work again, and whereas this Branch is of the opinion that cane would be the best industry to engage our attention if we must overcome the difficulties before us, Resolved to approach the Parent Society asking for a loan of £20 for the putting up of a mill and other necessary buildings for the production of sugar, and that this loan be given for 4 years on terms to be determined by the Parent Society. *Also that the Director of the Public Gardens be asked through the Secretary of the* Jamaica Agricultural Society to supply the members of the Branch with cane plants—B.208 if possible at Albany railway station, which is the station of the Society."

It was decided to refer this application to the local Loan Bank, as a loan of this kind was the legitimate duty of a Loan Bank.

Mr. Graham moved the following Resolution and spoke at length *on the necessity for urgent measures being taken to assist banana* planters in the resuscitation of their fields:—

"That in view of the large capital invested in the Banana Cultivation, and its importance as a paying one, in the absence of hurricanes, as well as the appreciation and value of bananas in the American and English markets, the Board considers it necessary that the Banana planters should endeavour to carry on their cultivations and hereby asks the Government to find help to enable those planters who may be in great need, to restore their cultivations, on any fairly good security they may be able to offer.

Mr. Stedman seconded and the matter was tabled for further discussion at next meeting of the Board as Mr. Simmonds remarked that a public meeting was being held at Port Maria to take up the points referred to in the resolution.

*Food Supply*—(a) Letter from the Director of Agriculture was read as follows:—

No. G. 830. 8th October, 1917.

"I have been instructed by His Excellency the Acting Governor to report on the actual present conditions and the immediate prospects of the native food supplies of the Island and I should be glad of the assistance of your Agricultural Instructors in reporting their observations on this matter in each of their districts."

(Sgd.) H. H. COUSINS,
Director of Agriculture.

The Secretary said that he had sent the request to each Instructor for a report as requested by the Director of Agriculture, and he would forward the reports to him as they were received.

(*b*) *Rice Industry.*—Extract from report of Mr. Somerville, Instructor for S. Westmoreland and Hanover was presented, (see p. 452).

The Secretary said that Mr. Muirhead had submitted the following question on the same subject:—

"Are the members of this Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, satisfied that the Jamaica Government are doing all in their power to push and develop the Rice Growing Industry in Jamaica?

From reliable sources it would appear that this industry is being very much neglected, and much left undone that might be done.

Will the Government appoint a Committee of gentlemen, in the Island, to enquire into the possible development of same with a view of having this industry taken up in all the parishes suited for the production of same on proper lines to the benefit and in the interests of the Island and agriculture.

As you are aware, the Instructor for Westmoreland is occasionally writing offering suggestions and calling upon some one and the Government to act in this matter, and up to now it appears to fall upon deaf ears, but I think that now when we are being asked to produce everything that can be produced should be carefully attended to and this would appear to most of us one of the articles which could be more extensively produced with a little effort and more interest shown same by the Government who it would appear are some of the largest holders of land suitable for this purpose."

The Secretary was instructed to publish these in the JOURNAL for the information of all, and the matter might be discussed at next meeting.

(*c*) *Goats.*—An extract from report of Mr. Rennie, Instructor for Trelawny and E. St. James was read as follows:—

"The number of goats that are being slaughtered is becoming alarming—ewes and nannies are killed quite as much as the other kind. As an instance I came across a case a few weeks ago where a man sold a fine promising ewe (got from the Agricultural Society's Ram at Deeside) 13 weeks old, to a butcher for 10/-. I think the time is ripe for the Government to step in and stop the slaughtering of ewes, nannies, shoats and sows. Butchers are tempting the people with good prices for their small stock; if they refuse to sell, invariably the animals disappear. The situation is becoming serious."

Mr. Roxburgh said that the matter was one that certainly ought to be dealt with, the breeding capacity of the country was being depleted at an alarming rate not only among goats and pigs, but even among cattle. As far as he personally and other large breeders of stock were concerned, it really was to their advantage as it put up the price of their saleable stock, but it was a serious thing for the Island. It was decided to refer this matter to the Live Stock Committee for their consideration and report.

*Letters from C.S.O.*—The following letters from the C.S.O., were considered:—(a) *Plant Disease.* No. 15309 18902 of date the 15th October was submitted stating that His Excellency had appointed Mr. E. Arnett of Good Hope, Falmouth, to be an honorary Inspector of Plant Diseases under Law 3 of 1915, owing to the existence of coconut diseases in Trelawny and that the area for which he is appointed shall be within a radius of 10 miles from Messrs. J. F. Thompson and Son's Office at Good Hope.

(*b*) *Re Blackleg.*—

No. 15255-19679. 13th October, 1917.

"With reference to the letter from this office, No. 131212-15580, dated the 31st August last, I am directed by the Acting Governor to ask that the Board of Management of your Society will be so good as to obtain, for His Excellency's information, recommendations from your Live Stock Committee as to the rules to be made under

Section 5 of Law 23 of 1917 for the disposal of the carcasses of animals that ma; die from the disease of cattle called "Black Leg."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

The Secretary said the papers were not returned from re-circulation He was instructed to send the comments of the members to the C.S.O on the return of the papers.

(c) *Re Cotton.*—

No. 15320-88 Circ: 31.8.17. 15th October, 1917.

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to transmit herewith a copy of a circula despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing a statement by th Empire Cotton Growing Committee of points on which information is desired a to the possible production of Cotton in British Colonies and Protectorates and t say that His Excellency would be glad if the Jamaica Agricultural Society woul furnish their views on the several points specified by the Committee, so far as thi Colony is concerned."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary was directed to send the papers to Mr. Wasoı and to ask him if he would be so good as to make a report on the subjec as he was practically interested in the crop.

(d) *Banana Borer.*—No 14885-18628 of date 5th October, 1917 submitting progress reports of the Entomologist and Inspector o Plant Diseases on experiments in connection with the control of th Banana Borer Weevil.

The Secretary was directed to circulate to the Board as usual.

*Office Equipment.*—The Secretary reported that this matter ha been referred from the C.S.O. to the Director of Public Works an his report, with an estimate and plans, was now returned. He wa directed to circulate this to the Office Committee for their attention.

*Banana Products.*—A letter from the United States Departmen of Agriculture, Hawaii, was read as follows:—

20th September, 1917

Journal of the Agricultural Society,
Kingston, Jamaica.

Gentlemen.

I am desirous of securing data regarding the present status of the banana flou industry or other industries based upon the manufacture of food or industrial pro ducts from bananas. Probably more has been done along this line in the Britisl West Indies than elsewhere, and I would much appreciate any information yo can give me bearing upon the present size and success of the industries and price at which the products sell, and the markets which consume the major portion of th products. I would be glad to receive the address of manufacturers and distributers I will greatly appreciate any information which you may kindly give me along thes lines or any trouble which you may be put to in referring my inquiries to the prope authorities. If I can in any way reciprocate your kindness, I trust you will feel at libert to call upon me to do so.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) J. E. HIGGINS,
Horticulturist.

In a short discussion, it was pointed out that banana product were only available when there was a very large excess of fruit fo shipment; this had not been the case for many years, and the present status of the industry was a very negligible quantity—as a matter o fact there had been no production for a few years owing to hurricanes.

The Secretary was directed to reply giving the information.

*Authorized Persons.* (a) The following letter from the C.S.O was read.

No. 14248-15139. 21st September, 1917

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, C.S.O., No. 39, dated the 3rd ultimo, and to inform you in reply that His Excellency has approved of arrangements for drafts in payment of Authorized Persons to be cashed by District Postmistresses on the distinct understanding that this can be done only when the Postmistress has sufficient funds on hand, and that the Postal Department will accept no responsibility in the event of payment being made to a wrong person."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary said he had communicated with the Instructors on this subject.

(b) The following letter from E. A. Gunter, Instructor for West Portland was also read:—

"At a meeting of the Swift River Branch held last month, a member suggested that the names of their Authorized Persons should be printed and posted up at public places where they may be seen and read of all men, and thought that this may do much to lessen the ravages of the praedial thief."

The matter was left in the Secretary's hands.

*Applications for Affiliation.*—The following applications for affiliation had been before the Instructors' Committee:

(a) *Linstead.*—Application had been held over from last meeting, pending Mr. Campbell's report. Mr. Campbell had reported that a Society there was desirable, and the Committee had recommended the affiliation.

(b) *Llandewey.*—The Committee recommended the affiliation of this Branch, provided the name was changed from Yallahs Valley to Llandewey, which was the particular district tapped by the Branch. Affiliation for these two was granted.

(c) *Danvers Pen.*—As a local Branch was about to be organized at Seaforth, which was a more suitable centre and could serve both districts, the affiliation was not granted meantime.

*New Member.*—The following new member was elected:—Rev. M. F. Johns, Mandeville.

The meeting then adjourned until 15th November, 1917, at 11.30 a.m.

—:o:—

## BLACK ANTS ON YAM HILLS.

There has been a complaint from Hanover about Black Ants destroying yam heads.

This is not a new pest. Every time I have planted yams some hills have been attacked. The yam head makes a good dish for the ant-cow, a sort of succulent scale insect that the ant propagates and cares.

I have found cassava water a sure cure for this. Pour some fresh cassava water wrung from the grated tuber over the yam hill till it is saturated and the ants will disappear. Some people assert that if cassava leaves be rubbed in the hand and covered up with the ants it will have the same effect, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this.

When the Entomologist visits the parish, I hope to show him some samples of hills so attacked.

R. C. SOMERVILLE.

## RICE INDUSTRY.

*(Extract from Report of R. C. Somerville re Food Situation, dated 14th September, 1917.)*

The rice crop this year will have an important bearing on the situation, as it will be larger this year than in any other year of its history. I have just received a letter from Mr. R. F. Lindo, J.P., of Fish River, that he is now spending a large amount of money, aggregating hundreds of pounds to improve this factory and machinery so as to cope with the expected crop. He also informs me that he has started preparing, i.e., establishing water control, over 60 additional acres of swamp lands for next year's planting.

It has been rather surprising to me that at a time like this when the food situation is likely to engage the attention of the Government for years, the development of this industry which is the easiest and in fact the only workable solution to the problem, has been left to make the considerably slow progress that private enterprise among small men can develop.

There are approximately 750 acres of rice grown in the Island producing an estimated crop of 7,000 bags of manufactured rice. It would be possible to double this in one year, and at least triple it in 4 years if the necessary stimulus were given.

The production of a very large quantity of rice is desirable even in normal times, as it would replace the rice imported into this Island, and the money now going into the hands of foreigners would be diverted into the pockets of native producers.

The development of this industry does not displace any other and every shilling gained from it, is an addition to the Island's wealth. My final survey of the rice crop this season makes me amend all former estimates, and I now estimate the crop in Hanover and Westmoreland to yield 6,000 bags of clean rice, one-half of which will be hulled in the factories, and the remainder hand hulled or sold as stock and poultry food.

If I am allowed to make a suggestion, I should say that the Board of Management could do much to achieve this desired end by endeavouring to persuade the Government to furnish the necessary stimulus by adopting some line of action like the following:—

1. Subsidize small central hulling plants at such places as Sweet River, Savanna-la-Mar, Negril.
2. Place Government swamp lands like the Great Morass at the disposal of rice growers and encourage time expired coolies to settle there.
3. Conduct experiments with different varieties of seed imported from abroad and put the best varieties within the reach of the growers.
4. Appoint one Instructor to devote his time entirely to the development of the industry.

There are other ways that may occur to you, but I certainly think that any measure that would help to increase the output to any remarkable degree, would be of the greatest service to the country.

Every food crop of high merit that can stand storing for a long time is doubly important now, especially when these can be grown in large quantities, far above the present needs.

R. C. SOMERVILLE,
*Agricultural Instructor.*

## COPRA.

### COPRA DRIERS IN E. PORTLAND AND E. ST. THOMAS.

(This article was written before the hurricane of September last, but was held over. Since the storm there has been greater activity in the making of copra from the blown down nuts, and further improvements are being made in the copra houses).

There has been a large increase in activity here in the production of copra and consequently an increase in the number of drying apparatus or houses in the district.

During the last two or three years copra making has been carried out on most estates in a small way, in nearly all cases with trays exposed to the sun, in some instances by drying in houses built on the same lines as Cocoa Driers.

To-day practically every estate of any size in this district has a copra making drier. As far as I can gather the type of drying house mostly built was originally experimented with and brought to some perfection by Mr. Ed. Ashman at Boroughfield for drying cocoa. This was copied by another large cocoa estate in the parish. Later Mr. Ashman improved very much on his plans and stove heating arrangements and supplied plans to others in the parish. These driers are all worked on the same principle, viz: a practically air tight wood or stone building varying in size from 17 x 10 to 30 x 12, containing a more or less number of trays; a furnace or stove is let through the wall to which is attached a system of hot air pipes. The heat is produced by the piping acting as a chimney or draught for the furnace. A ventilator is let into the roof and allows for regulation of the heat.

These driers whilst all more or less on these lines, vary a good deal in the manner they are operated and the details of their construction. In some cases the actual drying chamber is approached through an ante-chamber, also more or less capable of being kept tight; in others the doors open out directly to the open air. In a good many driers the trays are arranged on each side of a central aisle, in others the trays are put in from the outside through doors opening at the sides, and are arranged as in one case behind the other so that 2 trays in each side have to be drawn out, this allows of utilizing every inch of space. Sometimes the drier is flat topped and others run up into the gable. The best arranged houses have the heating furnace fixed at such a level that the heating pipes start on a level or nearly so of the floor and rise at a very slight angle as they are led round the house and back to the starting point so that very little space below is sacrificed and no inconvenience is felt if it is necessary to put the trays in from a centre aisle. The trays are mostly made from half-inch mesh wire on frames; in one case I have seen them made of plaited binding wire, not very satisfactory, and in another of plaited split bamboo which seems to be splendid and in the case I speak of have been in use 16 years.

In the same way that the methods of drying vary, so also the kind of copra produced varies much and I am afraid in most cases the art of making good copra has not been studied as minutely as will be necessary when a good white copra will fetch a very much better price than a half burnt mildewed honeycombed or musty lot. I

understand at present locally almost any sort of copra passes and planters tell me of almost black copra fetching the same price as good white copra. This cannot last and to get good prices good copra must be manufactured.

Unless the type of driers are more or less standardized, I am afraid each planter will have to work out his own system with his own drier.

For instance, the man who has a furnace that is entirely composed of bricks with a brick floor and heating passage has an entirely different problem to solve in management of heat to the man who dries with an iron plate furnace and iron heating pipes. Certain facts, however, seem to show up.

(1 That a white of pellucid copra with a smooth inside surface not pitted containing not more than 5% of moisture is required.

(2) That to get this it is best if possible to expose the coconuts split in the shell to the sun for a half day or so first.

(3) That after doing this the coconut should be put into the drier which should have a high temperature of say 160° or 170°, and should be kept at that for at least 12 hours. This high temperature at first is important otherwise the coconut may mildew or pit.

(4) That it is important to have some means of constantly removing the surplus moisture in the drier which during the first days drying is very great. This is in some cases obtained by means of a chimney cowl on top of the shed with an interior suction fan which keeps the air moving out all the time; in other cases by ventilating tubes with regulators both at the top and bottom which keep the air circulating, or in others by merely opening up everything after so many hours drying and letting out the moisture.

(5) That a temperature of 140° seems, in most cases, to be most satisfactory after the initial heating and should be maintained unless mildewed or mushy copra is wanted.

(6) Data given vary as to the time taken to dry copra; some say 24 hours, but the average is 36.

Those experimenting here have met with many difficulties, in some cases the top trays burn the copra, in others the bottom tray in some, those near the stove scorch.

The whole secret of success apparently is the regulating of the heat so that it reaches all parts of the building equally and at the same time, and that all moisture is constantly and regularly removed from the building.

These difficulties are being gradually removed by means of sliding floors to keep down the heat, fans for distributing it, ventilators, suction cowls, etc.

One planter here has reached the stage when he is going to burn diozide of sulphur in his copra house to protect his copra from fermentation after bagging, etc.

The drying of copra in this section is still not fully developed, but from the above remarks it will be seen that a decided effort is being made to bring this side of the coconut industry to a successful issue and the results of experimental work done are such as encourage a belief in their speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

(Sgd.) L. A. WATES,
Agricultural Instructor.

## CORN.

The following from the Agricultural News (Barbados) will be of interest. Representations have been made by some of our Branch Societies over a series of years, that a central Granary worked by the Government should be tried here. Some drawbacks to this scheme at the time were the uncertain production of corn and a lack of appreciation of native corn and cornmeal. This has been entirely changed this year. The summer crop of corn has been a record one, not because of the good seasons alone but because of the great effort made to extend the cultivation of the crop, the more general use of good seed, and the better cultivation given. The grade of corn, too, in some parishes was much higher than usual.

Our winter crop will not be so large for a good many reasons, but the crop through late planting right into November will be extended from January to May, so that it will be more difficult to estimate the production thau the summer crop.

### THE GOVERNMENT GRANARY IN ST. VINCENT.

A short report on the first year's working of the St. Vincent Government Granary has lately been forwarded to the Commissioner of Agriculture by the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Vincent.

The accounts for the co-operative purchase of Indian corn at the granary have been closed for the crop, and the resulting bonus declared and paid.

It appears that 150 persons supplied corn on the profit-sharing basis, receiving on account 2s. 4d. per 100 lb. for corn on the cob, or ½d. per lb. for shelled grain; the first payments amounted to £170 9s. 11d. To this must be added £19 3s. 9d. necessary working expenses, making a total outlay of £269 13s. 8d. The amount realized by the sale of meal and corn was £523 17s. 2d. showing a profit of £264 3s. 6d. A bonus of 120 per cent., calculated on the price paid on account, was paid to the growers, leaving some £60 apparently as the granary's share of the profits. The meal was sold from the granary at 15s. 7½d. per 100 lb. and in small lots of 2d. per lb. The total estimated quantity of corn dealt with for the crop was 128,589 lbs. of undried grain, which equals 2,296 bushels or 1,148 bags. Of this amount 78,988 lb. were dealt with on the profit-sharing basis, the remainder having been treated for outside growers, who were charged 1d. per cwt. for shelling, 4d. per cwt. for kilh-drying, and 1d. per 7 lb. for grinding. The Superintendent however writes that he considers the charges for shelling and drying too low, and that these will porbably have to be raised in future.

This first year's working of the granary thus shows excellent results. Practically all the corn was converted into meal, which was sold at a profit at a low price for local consumption. Considering the much higher price of imported corn meal, this must have been a great boon to the colony at this time.

The following estimates obtained from results in working will be of value to other such granaries; the average ratio of corn to cob by weight was from 75 to 77 per cent., the loss of weight of corn in kiln-drying was from 6.5 to 7 per cent.

## THE COFFEE INDUSTRY AND THE PRODUCE PROTECTION LAW.

The following was addressed to the General Meeting held in July, but on account of the great amount of business to be done, could not be read:—

"I ask your permission to lay before you a few facts concerning the produce buying business of this Island, and their practical effect on our agricultural industries, particularly coffee and cocoa. I am a coffee man myself, and have no actual knowledge of the cocoa industry but have the best authority for saying that the state of affairs that I will describe applies equally well to the one as to the other, and perhaps also to the orange industry. Perhaps other interested parties can confirm this.

I will deal as far as possible with facts, not opinions, and will begin by laying down one or two propositions which may sound rather obvious, but which are absolutely essential to the right understanding of the subject, the more so as they are apparently *totally ignored* by the authorities, in produce-buying legislation:—

1. Every penny of wealth made in Jamaica comes originally from its agriculture, and whatever tends to affect agriculture favourably or unfavourably must have a corresponding effect on the prosperity of the entire community.

2. Produce-buying is a highly important industry. It is the link between the land and its market. Its operations should be the object of watchful care, and its right conduct jealously guarded, by this Society in particular and by the government in general.

3. Produce-buying in certain important staples, like coffee and cocoa, includes *produce-handling, curing and preparation*, except possibly in the case of town buyers, who are supposed to handle the finished article, more or less. The importance of this point is apparently not realised, but I may mention that in all except the very lowest grades of coffee about 30 to 50 per cent. of the value of the product lies solely in its right handling and preparation, and it must be to some extent the same with cocoa. What this means in considering the actual, and the potential, export value of these staples, I leave to your imagination.

4. The first consideration, in the granting of produce licences, should be to grant them only to people who are both able and willing to use them as they should be used. to the benefit and support of the industries concerned, to the encouragement of cultivation and improvement of quality, to the conservation of the general wealth, not to its destruction. It would need a high-powered microscope to discover any evidences of this in the existing conditions. The only consideration visible seems to be to issue as many licenses as possible to any kind of person who wants them, and who has not been in prison.

I refer for general information, to a copy of an address I delivered some little time ago to the Port Royal Mountains Branch Society, fully describing present conditions and their effect, on the Blue Mountain coffee industry. I can summarise it as follows: Every crop time the hills swarm with small buyers, itinerant, or located at wayside shops, often Chinese. They buy a very large proportion of the settlers coffee crop, entirely destroy its special character and value by bad handling or no handling at all, give it a couple of days rough curing, and rush in to Kingston and sell it at the price of com-

mon coffee, anything from 20/- to 50/- a cwt. according to the state of the market and the handling it gets. They buy coffee by the quart and cocoa by the pod, thus giving direct encouragement to theft. How they enter this in their books I don't pretend to say—probably not at all. They send large sums of money out of the district, or *rather destroy this money* which under a proper system, would be spent among the settlers and labourers in the proper curing and manufacture of the crops. They produce nothing, and improve nothing. Their operations are wholly destructive of wealth, and are rapidly and inevitably decreasing the settlers output by impoverishing the whole district.

I carry on a considerable coffee-buying business in conjunction with my own crop. I buy the identical coffee, from the identical trees, bought by the small buyers referred to above. I have to wait a long time for my money (just now an unknown time, owing to the British embargo), but in the end I sell this coffee for practically the same prices that I get for my own, say from 60/- up to 130/- per cwt., roughly double of what the other buyers get. The difference, less my legitimate profit, goes straight back to the people themselves from my pay-table in the form of employment to man, woman and child, and even mule-hire, besides upkeep of works. In a good season, I give more or less continuous employment to some 50 to 70 people, and could circulate double the money I do, if I got the coffee I should get. I can give further particulars and figures on this subject if desired. In other words, every tub of coffee sold to me keeps money in the district and encourages local industry. Every tub sold to the small buyer not only sends a corresponding amount out of the district, but destroys it absolutely.

It is therefore obvious that the ideal arrangement for the benefit of the greatest number, is for the large estates to buy, the larger the better. Unfortunately there are many districts where there are no estates, or none for purchasing, and the settler is wholly dependent on the small buyer. But in practically every district there are small proprietors, or substantial settlers, growing the staple crop themselves, who with a little encouragement, would be willing and able to buy it on proper lines. It is not necessary to have a large factory to do this. The outfit for handling coffee and cocoa on a small scale is not an expensive outlay, and however small it is, if it amounts to anything at all, it must do *something*, however little, to improve the produce, give a little employment, and keep money in the district, instead of destroying it. A minimum outfit for handling produce should be decided upon, reported on by the Agricultural Instructor, who should also be agricultural *Inspectors*, and this should be the first condition necessary for the granting of a license. The charge should be at least £5 instead of £2 as at present, and should carry with it the right to employ say 2 out-stations, or agents at £1 apiece, say. These would simply be collecting stations, from which the produce would be forwarded to the centre, and need have no outfit and could be shops, if desired. I am well aware that I shall be told that I am trying to deprive the poor man of his living. To those who advance this argument, my reply is, "Whom do you mean by 'the poor man?'" Do you mean the agricultural labourer who lives perpetually on the back edge of nothing, and whose only chance of improvement is, emigration? He is the worst sufferer under the present system, for it

deprives him of a large proportion of the employment he ought to get; while we fill our papers with discussions about his poverty, his laziness, his immorality, his diseases, etc., we carefully destroy before his eyes thousands of pounds which ought to be circulating in his direction, and improving this condition. Employers are told that they should pay him a dollar a day, (without, however, being told where the dollar is to come from, except in the case of sugar!) Would it not be as well to first try the effect of giving him the full benefit that our industries can afford, instead of only a portion? If it were not a tragedy, it would be a joke.

Or do they mean the "poor" planter? If so, I quite agree with them. He has the burden of the Island on his shoulders, and has to carry on in the face of such trifles as 3 hurricanes and the worst drought on record, in 4 years. If he tries to benefit himself and his district by buying produce on proper lines, he finds himself up against the competition of the Chinese shopkeeper and other detestable types, who buy by the quart, coffee that as often as not has been stolen from him (the planter)! But the fact is they mean neither of these when they talk about the "poor man." They mean the "poor produce buyer." To which I reply that if he cannot carry on his business properly the sooner he is made to quit it the better it will be for the whole Island. I fail to see why the producing classes should suffer, to support a non-producing class. In conclusion, I beg to move the following resolutions:

1. That the Produce Protection Laws of this country, as they now stand, work incalculable harm to the community, and stand in urgent need of reformation.

2. That a committee representative of all interests concerned, be speedily appointed to consider the whole subject, and make recommendations to the Government thereon.

(Sgd. W. H. LANDALE.

———:o:———

A Special Committee of this Society has already reported on the Produce Protection Laws. With this Committee was associated prominent merchants in the Island and the Attorney General. A report was made to the Government with certain recommendations. In response there has been a little patching up of the Law done here and there but that is all. Some further small revisions were put before the last meeting of the Legislative Council by the Government but were not accepted. These have now been referred to this Society and again a Special Committee is considering what can be done.

Public opinion has to be educated to desirable changes. The large number of small produce licenses issued throughout the country, with itinerant buyers going from door to door were hailed by the smallest growers at first as great conveniences to them. They are finding out now that the producer has to pay for all. He has to pay for all the calling, riding and driving of the itinerant buyer, for the time the small wayside buyer sits waiting on the produce, the time he spend buying or canvassing for trade and accounting for his purchase to the larger buyer in the towns, and so on. The small grower can just as easily save all this and market his own coffee and cocoa as he does his other produce. He goes to the market twon on Saturday anyhow. When the small grower has not equipment to cure coffee or cocoa, it is to his interest to sell only to those who can make the

best of the product, i.e., cure it to the best advantage and sell it in the best market. The sooner every grower realizes that it is his coffee or cocoa that goes to make the good or bad name of the Jamaica produce the better. Each man has his own responsibility. It is not enough to sell coffee in the cherry or cocoa in the pod to anyone and then not care what becomes of it. The better the class of coffee and cocoa we export the better the name the Island gets, and the better the prices which ultimately come to us.

It is certainly a great pity that any high mountain coffee should be sold to those who do not, and cannot make any more out of it than ordinary coffee through the want of the proper equipment to deal with it, and the lack of the skill and knowledge that it takes years of experience and study to gain. It should be very plain that any Tom, Dick and Harry who sets up a little shop to buy produce is not skilled or experienced enough to deal with such an important thing as the produce of the country on the quality of which the price is based. The more that is got for our finished products, the more the country in general benefits. Everybody therefore should be seriously and genuinely interested in this question.

We would go so far as to say that no one should get a license to deal in produce unless he could show that he has had some trainng and experience in the business.—(ED)

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## COCOA.

As we are in Jamaica much concerned at present over the half embargo (as it may be called) on the shipping of our cocoa to the United Kngdom, which restriction is accounted for partly by the fact that there are larger stocks held in Europe than are needed and the scarcity of tonnage for anything except what is most required, it should be of interest to note the stocks held in Havre and London at 31st August last and the sources of the supplies sent there.

The total imports into France for the coming 12 months, it is reported, will be limited to 40,000 tons.

A bag of cocoa is about 180 lbs.

Havre Stock, August 31st—

| | 1917 Bags. | 1916 Bags. |
|---|---|---|
| Para | 2,014 | 54 |
| Bahia | 12,296 | 19,818 |
| Venezuela | 11,891 | 13,699 |
| Trinidad | 14,005 | 5,225 |
| Grenada and O.W.I. | 13 | 13 |
| San Thome | 30 | 70 |
| San Domingo | 540 | — |
| Haiti | 4,405 | 8,602 |
| Accra, &c. | 1,558 | 10,555 |
| Guayaquil | 11,122 | 2,076 |
| Other Foreign | 1,696 | 3,293 |
| Totals | 59,570 bags | 63,405 bag |

Analyses of twelve commercial samples of "Spanish" and of nineteen of "Virginia" pea-nuts (these two varieties being most grown), run as under:—

| | Moisture. | Oil. | Oil. (dry basis) | Ash. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Per Cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| "Spanish" | 3.9 | 50.0 | 52.5 | 2.4 |
| "Virginia" | 4.1 | 41.7 | 43.3 | 2.7 |

It will be noticed that there is a difference in the amount of oil of about 9 per cent. in favour of the "Spanish" variety.

In order to make a very high grade edible oil, the bulletin goes on to say, the pea-nuts should be thoroughly cleaned, shelled, blanched and degermed before being ground (between mills and rollers) and pressed. Experiments made in cottonseed-oil mills in the United States show that the presses now in use can be used for making pea-nut oil. The first pressing should be made cold, in order to get a high grade edible oil, the second should be made after regrinding and heating the cake from the first pressing. It is doubtful whether more than two pressings should be made in the United States. The oil from the second pressing might be refined and used for cooking, or for the manufacture of oleomargarine, or it might be used without refining for soap making.

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## SCHOOL GARDENS.

We present exactly as it is sent the record kept by a scholar of Winchester School, St. Thomas-ye-East, of the work done in the School Garden there. We guarantee that this was not specially written for publication, or ever meant to be specially put forward. The teacher thought it was rather out of the ordinary and asked the opinion of the Agricultural Instructor, who was so struck by the careful way in which the scholar had written, as well as by, the records, that he sent the book on to us as a mark of progress.

Here is the record:—

### Observations and Experiments.

### Plots N.

Potatoes.—Variety "Pickney mamma" and "Standsteady." Date planted, October, 1916. Reaped, March 28, 1917. Result:

Both plots dugged up and weighed. Pickney Mamma bears more and was 30lbs. in advance of the Stand Steady. Both species produced large sized potatoes, well developed without any indication of disease, with the exception of one Pickney Mamma that rotted in the middle.

Pickney Mamma is red, Stand Steady is brown in colour.

Some borers have been recently discovered. These are discovered in the heart of the tubers. Potato looks good outside whilst inside is bad.

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### Plot B.

St. Vincent, Yellow Yams, also Renta Variety.—Yellow yam or afou. Date planted, 19th September, 1916. Preparation. Plot forked and manured, yams planted in banks. In one case I sink one head in the forked land without any bank and will await the result. Plot mulched on the 7th February.

Wind came on the 16th May and brought down two sticks of the yellow yams. Large banks do not bear as the small banks. The smaller the bank in this locality, the better the growth and the result. Renta planted in June.

PLOT M.

TOBACCO.—Variety, Creol. Date planted, 10th April, 1917.

Preparation. One of the plots forked and manured with wood ash. The other does not fork nor is it manured. Both plots are planted. We will watch result.

Marked distinction has been shown between the two plots as will be seen. The forked and manured plot is clearly ahead of the other plot. Plants are daily searched for caterpillars. Forked and manured plot weighs 10 lbs. in advance of the other plot.

PLOT F.

CORN.—Variety, Indian Corn. Date planted, 16th April, 1917; 3ft. by 2½ft. Preparation. Plot forked and manured with woodash. Variety, Hybridized Seed Corn. Date planted, 25th April, 1917, ten days after the Indian Corn was planted. Preparation. Plot forked and manured with wood ash. Result. The hybridized corn does not grow at first as bulky as the ordinary Jamaica seed corn. Mulched, 17ty May, 1917. Hybridized corn is crossed with the other Jamaica corn marked result. Very good full rows on cobs.

PLOT A.

PEAS.—Variety, Red Kidney Beans. Date planted 26th April, 1917. One of the beds is forked, the other is not forked, but the earth is beaten very hard. Both beds are planted. Result. Bed or plot that is forked germinated ere the other plot. Forked plot shows up much better than the unforked plot, in which only a few germinated.

PLOT .

CITRUS FRUIT.—White scales were discovered. All trees were washed with paranaph ere we bud. Sometimes I have found it necessary to wash or spray trees several times as these scales are hard to get rid of.

Date of budding, 4th June, 1917. Spring is about the best time for Budding.

PLOT O

INDIAN KALE.—Variety. Date planted, 15th January, 1917. Date mulched, 15th May, 1917.

Preparation. Plot forked and manured. One half of this plot is mulched, the other half is left unmulched. Result:

The mulched section looks much better than the unmulched section, as will be seen. Better leaves than the unmulched section.

PLOT

DRUMHEAD CABBAGE.—Variety, Drumhead. Preparation. Plot forked and manured with stable manure and wood ash. Date planted, 3rd April, 1917. Date mulched, 16th May, 1917. Half mulched; the other half is not mulched. Result: Better growth in the part that is mulched. Evaporation is checked. Mulched section produces one head of cabbage which weighs 8 lbs.

PLOT K.

CASSAVA.—Variety or varieties. Newstick (sweet) and Brown stick (bitter). Preparation. Both plots forked and manured. Date planted, 4th January, 1917. Date mulched, 8th May, 1917. The plot with sweet cassava is mulched whilst plot with bitter cassava is not mulched. Chopped off two feet above the roots owing to wind on the 16th May.

PLOT D.

CANES.—Variety or varieties, B 208. The White Transparent and J. 72. Preparation. Plots forked and manured. Date planted, 4th December, 1916. Date mulched, March, 1917. Result: Borers attack canes in dry weather especially when trashed. Trashing should be done in wet weather. Joints of the white transparent are smooth. Borers begin to attack the B.208 variety. J. 72 resembles our ordinary Jamaica white canes. Joints tall and smooth, very sweet.

PLOT I.

BANANA.—Preparation. Plot forked and manured. Date planted Two roots left unpruned whilst the others are pruned. Result is that the pruned roots produce stronger suckers whilst the unpruned roots are weak, frail seukers. No banana borers are discovered. WOODASH is applied to some of the banana roots.

PLOT C.

COCO.—Variety, Duke. Preparation. Plot forked and manured. Date planted, 12th March, 1917. Date mulched, July 23rd, 1917. One half of this plot is mulched. The other half unmulched. As will be seen there is marked difference, mulched plot is clearly ahead of the other.

PLOT .

BROOM CORN.—Preparation. Plot forked and manured. Date planted, 23rd August, 1917. Date mulched.

PLOT .

ARROWROOT.—Variety. Preparation of plot. Forked and manured. Date planted, January 9, 1917. Dated mulched, February 7, 1917. Date weeded, February 19, 1917. One half of plot mulched.

Result: Mulched section is much better and produces better results than unmulched section.

## BUTCHERING OF YOUNG STOCK.

Mr. Rennie, Agricultural Instructor, has touched upon one of the most serious problems affecting the Live Stock industry of the island. Here in my district it is only at rare intervals that one can get any mutton that is worth eating, and with the distinctive flavour of mutton: most of it being the flesh of kids from three to six months old.

These young kids are slaughtered regardless of sex, with the obvious result that goats (especially those worth looking at) get scarcer and scarcer year by year. Just what could be done to remedy the evil should have the earnest and serious attention of the management of the J.A.S. if a better and more reliable supply of mutton is to be secured for the country.

The raisers of goats are mainly poor people, who are induced to sell quickly by their need; but who would no doubt allow their young animals to grow a bit larger if it were not for the swarm of itinerant butchers, who vie with each other in buying these little suckling animals. It is rare to see a really large well-grown ram-goat in most of the country districts being kept for stud purposes. If a young ram is saved long enough to grow into a fine large goat, he is sold for what to the seller is a handsome price, and some little ram of a few months old takes his place to perpetuate the breed; with the result that the goats of the country become smaller and smaller, and deficient in both hardiness and milking qualities. The goat industry is one which the intelligent settlers and members of branches in a district, should take up on intelligent lines, in order to improve the mutton and milk supply of the island. It is an industry in which there is both pleasure and profit.

Had the management of the J.A.S. seen fit to adopt the proposal to license butchers, they would have gone far towards solving two problems which confront the live stock industry; thefts by the aid of the itinerant butcher and the slaughtering of immature stock.

Many of these men make a precarious and questionable living, and could with advantage to themselves and the country turn their attention to the soil. I have known three and more of these men to visit a single yard in the course of a morning in their quest for something to butcher. I believe that licensing one half, the honest and intelligent among them, would work wonders in the solution of the problems which beset an industry so vital to the welfare of the country.

ARTHUR H. ROGERS.

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(We agree with this article in the main, but the writer is entirely wrong when he blames the Board of Management of this Society for turning down the proposal to license butchers. It was the Board of Management that introduced the subject and twice made representations to the Government. At that time, however, the public were largely against the proposal. This often occurs when subjects are brought up for consideration. It takes years for a proper understanding of what is at stake to take place.

The time is again ripe for bringing the subject forward, and this has been done.) Ed.

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## GROWING OF CORN.

How much corn is Jamaica capable of producing? These are questions which we should answer seriously.

Corn thrives up to 3,000 ft. above sea level and the greater part of the island is below that altitude. So then there is abundance of land on which corn can be grown.

If 50,000 acres were planted with corn (the corn being only a catch crop); and if the yield were 20 bushels to the acre, we would get 1,000,000 bushels per crop. But as we can grow two crops every year the annual yield would amount to 2,000,000 bushels.

We usually import 250,000 bushels. If we grew as much as we ought we could export instead of import corn. Why don't we grow more then? The answer is for want of system. The fact is there is very little system in anything that we do in Jamaica. We do things

oo much by fits and starts. This year the price of corn has been unusually high. We had in some places to pay 10/- per bushel. Now that the price is high men will plant corn. If we reap a good crop his fall and the price, as it generally happens falls below 3/- per bushel, men will say it does not pay; and very little will be planted next spring.

What we need to encourage the production of corn is a steady market, factories for making cornmeal, and a more extensive use of corn in our diet.

We in Jamaica use far too little corn as food and far too much of roots. We ought to eat 100% more grain and 50% less roots. Corn requires less bulk to supply the needs of the body than yams or potatoes. To encourage a greater taste for corn we need greater variety in the mode of cooking.

But to go back to the question of why so little corn is grown we have to ask another question. Does it pay to grow corn? That depends on how we grow it. If a man plants 1 acre of cassava or potato and then plants peas and corn through them, and then gets 10 bushels which he sells at 3/-, it pays him; for he gets cassava and peas for his labour and the corn is net profit. But if a man plants 1 acre of corn alone and it costs to clean, weed and harvest £3 and it yields 20 bushels it does not pay to sell at 3/- per bushel. To grow corn as a staple and make it pay at 3/- per bushel it is necessary to plant it so that the yield per acre may be more than 20 bushels.

In the corn growing competition held in Clarendon in 1915, a yield of over 90 bushels to the acre was obtained. It would be a good thing for Branch Societies to hold competitions in corn growing to induce growers to increase their yield.

To get a large yield certain points must be carefully observed:

1. First there must be selection of seed. Some cobs have as many as 20 rows with 40 grains in each row. Such a corn is decidedly better to plant from than one with 10 rows and 40 grains to each row.
2. The soil must be well tilled. The more finely broken you make the soil the better it is for corn.
3. Poor soils should be well manured.
4. The soil should be stirred and brought up to the roots of the plants at least three times from the time of planting till the time of reaping. If by selection of seeds, proper tillage and manuring we increase the yield to 60 bushels per acre, it will pay to grow corn.

If Jamaica is to grow more corn we must go about it more systematically.

I. We must find a steady market for all that is grown.
II. We must use more as food.
III. We must make it pay by increasing the yield per acre.

H. W. LYNCH,
Agricultural Instructor.

Southern St. Elizabeth.

## BLACK WEEVIL OF BANANA.

Mr. Joseph Jones, the Agricultural Superintendent of Dominica, in his annual report for 1916-17, in his review of the "Garden or Provision Crops" situation in that island, makes the following statement regarding the banana weevil: "Bananas (Musa sapientum) and plantains (Musa paradisiaca) and their varieties are greatly liked

and largely cultivated. The present shortage of bananas is due to the hurricanes of 1915 and 1916 from which there will be a recovery In the case of plantains the shortage which has existed for several years is due to persistent attacks of the plantain [or Banana—ED.] weevil (Cosmopolites sordidus) for which no remedy has been found."

According to the Review of Applied Entomology for August, which we receive monthly, the banana weevil has recently made its appearance in the lower Congo, serious damage only having been reported during the last two or three years there. In badly infested districts the natives have been compelled to substitute the cultivation of peanuts and corn for that of the banana.

The plantain seems very much more susceptible to attack than the bananas. In the valleys of the upper waters of the Wag Water there is now hardly a plantain found owing to the work of this banana borer.

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## HOME PRESERVE MAKING.

The following article is re-published from the JOURNAL for October, 1904:—

A great drawback to the making of preserves is, that it usually entails exposure to an open grate or stove for a prolonged period resulting in streaming eyes and an all pervading smell of smoke—but if the experimenter possesses a Primus oil stove that drawback disappears. I place my Primus in a small deal box which prevents undue radiation of heat, and one side of the box being moveable the air pump can be got at without trouble. My outfit consists of a Primus oil stove, a small copper pan, several large earthenware jars, a couple of the homely yabbas, a wineglass and a long silver spoon. The copper pan must always be kept bright and clean, both inside and outside—an important thing to remember, as the preserves are more apt to get burned if the outside is allowed to remain dirty. The copper is I think better than anything else for making preserves, although both enamelled and granite ware are good, but when exposed to great heat, these crack and scale off.

Fruit and other things for jams, jellies and other preserves should not be placed in tin or iron ware, as this tends to darken the finished article. It is also advisable to use only refined *cane* sugar, as *beet* sugar, especially for jellies, is worse than native sugars. I must emphasize the fact that preserve making will always be more or less of a failure unless scrupulous cleanliness be observed both in making and handling them, and also that personal attention at every stage of manufacture is absolutely necessary if proper results are to be obtained. When preserving citrus fruits they should be boiled until the rind is sufficiently tender to be easily pierced with a straw and they should not be kept in the same syrup in which they have been cooked as that usually is dark, and does not show them up properly. A thick, oily syrup should be made, and when *cold,* poured on the preserve, and should it get thin reboil, adding a little sugar. A good recipe for syrup is: 3lbs. sugar, 1 quart spring water, when boiling add a tablespoonful of lime juice—skim off any scum and strain, through fine muslin while hot.

I give below recipes in detail for making amber guava jelly and pink guava jelly.

*Amber Guava Jelly.*—Ripe guavas, sugar, lime juice, spring water. Put some water in an earthenware vessel, (yabba) and add a small quantity of lime or lemon juice to it. Cut the guavas in two and put them in the water—when all are cut and in the water, turn them about to take off any stain that may have been caused by the use of the steel knife, take out the seeds and place them by themselves in an earthenware jar, which when filled, cover with a green banana leaf slightly wilted, tie down and place in a half cold oven. Let the jar remain until the pulp is thoroughly melted, then take it out,, place contents in a flannel bag and let liquid drain out for some hours, but do not squeeze the bag. Take equal parts by weight of the juice and sugar, and melt sugar in the copper pan with the juice and strain again through a muslin bag while hot.. Of this take not more than 3lbs. and boil in copper to jelly on a brisk fire. When the liquid begins to boil add one dessert spoonful of lime juice or one table-spoonful of lemon juice to each lb. of liquid placed in the pan. The quicker the jelly boils, the lighter it will be.

*Pink Guava Jelly.*—Proceed exactly the same as for amber jelly. but place the entire guava in the jar (and not merely the seeds) or the guava itself left from making the amber jelly. In boiling it to jelly place from 5 to 6lbs. of liquid in the preserving pan, and proceed as in previous recipe. The larger the quantity of jelly boiled at one time, the darker will be the colour. To test whether the jelly is sufficiently boiled—take a wine glass filled with clear water and drop a small quantity of the boiling jelly into it, when the jelly immediately falls to the bottom of the glass without discolouring the water then the process is complete, and the jelly placed in jars to cool and set. If when cold the jelly appears soft, place it in the hot sun for a couple of days when it will usually set firm.

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## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

PUMPKIN AND RICE.—One large piece of pumpkin; half pint of rice; skellion, tomato, butter; a penny-half penny worth of salt pork.

A good sized piece of pumpkin is boiled with rice and well mixed together with a little chopped skellion and tomato, a little pepper, dessert spoonful of butter and a penny-half penny worth of salt pork, cut in dice. This is a favourite dish.

PUMPKIN FRITTERS.—Half a small pumpkin; butter, pepper, one egg, lard. Half a small pumpkin boiled until tender and mashed well with a little butter, black pepper and one egg. When well mixed, put it in spoonfuls in a larded saucepan and fry, turning till cooked each side. Omitting the pepper and substituting sugar to taste, these make delicious sweet pumpkin fritters.

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BOILED PUMPKIN.—This can be served in two ways. Most prefer it boiled and cut in "junks," with a shake of black pepper over it. The more refined way is to mash it with some butter, salt and pepper, and shape it in the dish.

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PUMPKIN PIE.—One *round* pumpkin, 1lb. of meat minced, seasoning, salt, pepper and butter.

One round pumpkin, one that can stand in a dish, not one that rolls over. Cut off the top, about a third of the vegetable. Then scoop out all seeds and pithy stuff round them. Cut out the pulp as close to the rind as possible, just leaving enough near the rind to keep it from breaking. Boil this pulp; meanwhile have 1lb. of meat minced and seasoned with pepper, salt, butter and skellion. Pack this into the hollowed out pumpkin rind, put on the cover, that is the top that has been cut off, (*with the stem on* if possible), and bake for three quarters of an hour. Serve with the top on and with a folded napkin round the lower part.

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WOODASHES.—Woodashes contain lime, and any manure or fertilizer containing

lime must not be mixed with any material containing ammonia or the lime will act on the manure which contains the valuable nitrogen, the most expensive plant food, and drive it off.

It is a common practice to use wood ashes in the closet, and underneath hens' roosts. Thus used the ashes are wasted and the manure is reduced in value. Use the woodashes separately for garden crops or on fruit trees, cocoa and coffee, and use fine earth to spread beneath hens' roosts or in the closet. Woodashes are too valuable to waste.

The earth is the greatest chemical laboratory. Waste matter mixed with earth becomes in a short time—earth.

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## POULTRY NOTES.

FEEDING.—In spite of the very large production of corn from the summer crop, this grain will be from 7/- to 8/- a bushel from now on because it is in such great demand for making cornmeal for human food. We advise greater use to be made of the 'offal' or remaining portion of the corn after cornmeal is made. This can be readily purchased at 8/- to 10 - per 100 lbs. or say 1d. to 1¼d. per lb. It would not be cheap food at that figure in ordinary times, but as we must have fowls and eggs and ought to save corn for cornmeal for human food, we should use the corn "offal." More of it has to be fed to give the same results.

To keep poultry profitably in these times one must be equipped with a corn mill. This indeed, is good at all times.

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MATING.—Now is the time to select your breeding stock for next season. No improvement can ever be made when eggs for sitting are taken at random, or hens allowed to sit as they please. If improvement in egg laying is wanted, select the hens that laid best last year as pullets, and mate with a young cock, whose mother proved an exceptional layer. If increase of size and weight is wanted, mate some of your heaviest hens with a young cock of good bone and substance.

Take care not to use cocks that are closely related with the hens. When the hens are heavy but poor layers mate with a cock of a good laying breed. When the hens are good layers but small get a cock of a fleshy type. The best fowls for general purposes in the country are medium, large and heavy fowls, because we have to depend very largely on young cocks for table, and therefore must have fowls that will make good eating as well as being good layers.

General purpose fowls of a good strain and good ordinary feeding should weigh at 5 months—cocks not less than 5 lbs., pullets not less than 4 lbs.

For years we have not placed a hen in our breeding pens that weighed less than 5 lbs., usually 5½ and cocks 8, usually 8½, and these birds are wonderfully good layers of large eggs. This shows what can be done by constant selection from year to year.

This has not been a good average year for pullets and we shall not have a large selection for next year. Last year was the best we ever recorded. We never use pullets for the breeding pen, but prefer second year birds so that the pullets of the first year which gave best results can be used as tested birds.

No one can breed up their stock without having one or two enclosed places in order to run the select hens with the selected cock.

Remember to fix up comfortable nests in quiet corners, and put a nest egg in each. This prevents hens "laying away."

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Salt in any quantity is harmful to poultry. A little is considered beneficial, but we do not give ours any regularly.

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TURKEYS.—A fine food for young turkeys is Johnny or Journey cake. It is made of cornmeal, and coarse home ground meal is best. This is made in the ordinary way into a thick cake with only a pinch of salt however, baked well in the oven, so that there is no clamminess in the middle. It should crumble easily. This broken up into crumbs is a good first food. No sloppy stuff should be given to young turkeys. Feed this for the first 10 days anyhow, then feed the same as chickens.

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SELECTING LAYERS.—It is a good sign when the first season layers are late to moult; it shows they are full of vitality. Keep those for your breeders next season. Select the pullets which show bright red combs, are always on the go scratching and scraping, and wandering from early dawn to late at night.

It is a bad sign when hens in their first year keep the bright gloss on their legs through the laying season; if a record of the eggs laid could be kept it would show

such hens to be the poorest layers, not giving their full vitality to produce eggs. Yellow legged birds like Leghorns should show pale legs toward the end of the laying season, and black legged breeds should be a pale slate colour. This applies to first season layers as the legs of o'd hens usual'y fade in colour anyhow as they get old.

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## COMMENTS.

PAMPHLETS.—We would again draw the attention of readers to the issue of the little pamphlet on Coffee growing by H. Q. Levy, and would recommend all Small Settlers interested in Coffee, to obtain a copy from us. Price 3d. post free.

The pamphlet "How to Identify Infectious Plant Diseases" is being distributed free on application.

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ARTICHOKES.—The French have apparently found a satisfactory substitute for potatoes—which are very subject to disease, require high cultivation and heavy manuring—in artichokes, which grow more easily and give larger returns per acre. The artichoke is stated to be quite as good as a food as potatoes. Artichokes grow very readily here, especially in the mountains. We refer to the Jerusalem artichoke.

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CASSAVA.—There is a great demand for cassava starch. Large crops of cassava are coming along, but food is the first consideration, and cassava bread will be the standby in many a household in certain districts this year, so starch will remain scarce.

Very much more bitter cassava should have been planted in view of the scarcity of wheat flour but last year between the eagerness to plant more wherever sticks could be had, scarcity of sticks in districts wanting to take up cassava growing more generally and the difficulty of transport of sticks from one district to another far distant, not so much was planted as should have been.

With plenty of cassava bread (bammy) available we would not feel the lack of wheat flour bread too much.

It would be fine, to see many households engaged every day or every other day in the making of the household supply of cassava bread and piles of fragrant bammy.

It would be a bother compared with the case of using flour from the shop, but in War time there are millions elsewhere willingly taking a great deal of extra bother indeed.

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SAVING OF FOOD.—One way of saving a very considerable quantity of valuable food for human beings is instead of using whole corn for feeding horses, cows, fowls and pigs at this time, to use the corn offal. Where a household has a good corn mill, and cornmeal is made, there is a great material saving. When the corn is ground, it is sifted and sifted, yet there is still good feeding value in what is rejected along with the husk. This is what should be used for feeding stock. It is not supposed that it is as good as all the corn, but in these times it will serve.

Where there is a real equipment for making cornmeal, like the one at Brown's Town belonging to Mr. J. H. Levy, the bye-products are of great value to those who feed stock. There are two grades, No. 1 and 2, the former coarser, the latter a fine meal almost as good as cornmeal; it contains the germ of the corn and is therefore fatty.

Dogs can be fed this to save the cornmeal for humans: this grade is also excellent for milch cows and should make a good balance with either wheat or rice bran.

We call special attention to these two corn feeds for stock made by Mr. Levy - see advertisement in this JOURNAL.

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CORN MILLS.- At a meeting of the Tower Hill Branch Society in St. James, there was an exhibition of cornmeal which had been made by a mill that is about 60 years old and which had not been used for 25 years. The mill has now been cleaned, put up, and is in good working order; it has produced meal that is as fine as the most up-to-date mill can make.

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DISEASES OF COCONUTS. It is known that the germs of Bud Disease are carried by John Crows, coconut trees being a favourite place of roost at night for these birds. It is stated by a grower that coconut trees frequented by John Crows invariably die.

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VEGETABLE SEEDS.—The price of nearly all Vegetable Seeds this year is very much higher than last year. Cabbage, Tomatoes and Turnips of most varieties have doubled in price, thus there is less than usual in a 3d. package.

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SEED POTATOES.—We were fortunate in getting freight for 400 barrels of Seed Potatoes which arrived here on the 1st of November. The price, however, is much higher than we expected, seeing that we read reports in the Agricultural papers of great crops in the United States. It seems, however, that potatoes taken up in the United States are of a very poor quality on the whole, and that American buyers have been purchasing largely in Canada—probably for seed. Our Seed Potatoes come from New Brunswick. If we had not booked early we should have had to pay still higher. We were informed that the price would rise further, so that there is not a very good outlook for good seed potatoes for the Spring planting in the parish of Manchester. We have done as much as we possibly could to induce planting at this time (November) and we hope to secure native seed, if it should happen that the imported seed cannot be had at all in February and March, or be very high in price. Potatoes planted here in November should be reaped in time for planting in March. The trouble with fresh seed is to get it to sprout in time for planting.

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SISAL HEMP.—It is probable that a Sisal Hemp Factory will be established by the Government at Lititz, not only to deal with the fibre which is being grown at the Government Farm at Lititz, but to deal on co-operative lines with all sisal which may be grown in the neighbourhood. Of course this factory would not be erected immediately as the fibre plants are not yet ready for cutting, there would not be enough to keep a factory working, but as there is a large area of land entirely suitable for growing Sisal in Southern St. Elizabeth within profitable reach of the proposed Factory, large proprietors could safely now begin to plant. Small holders have not room to grow these sisal as a rule on their very limited holdings as a crop, but odd spaces that are hardly fit for growing anything else—like holes in the rocks—could be utilized and especially should all the

oundary lines on a holding be well fenced with sisal plants. Very ew of such holdings are now fenced at all except occasionally a Penguin r Koratoe fence next the road. All Penguin should be rooted out nd replaced by Sisal Hemp so that the fence would thus be of some alue. If all the holdings bordering on roads were producing Sisal Iemp along the road-line, this would amount to an appreciable quan-.y within reach of the Lititz Factory, while if all the boundary lines of ll holdings within 5 miles of Lititz were so planted, a very large uantity of Sisal would result.

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TOWNSHIPS.—Which is the better system for Jamaica? Each ıan with his own house and outbuilding set out in his own holding t some distance from his neighbours—depending on the size of the olding; or the system common in France of the people living in a illage with the fields outside the village, with no building except shed or stable. The working stock may be kept in the buildings ı the yard in the village and taken out to the fields each morning, r the stock may be kept where the fields are. In such cases the elds are never very far from the village.

Both systems have their advantages. In some directions it is ıore economical to live in villages. There is less time lost in marketing oth buying and selling, in sending and receiving letters and telegrams; ess time lost in all kinds of business matters; there is more social ife; it is easy to consult Doctors, Clergymen or Lawyers, as they vill be at hand, or if the community is small, at least once or twice very week.

On the other hand there is time lost going to and from the fields; he owner is not close to his stock if anything goes wrong. Still it is asy then for a number of men of a village whose fields are all close ogether to have a watchman, whose business it is to patrol the fields.

In any new allotments of Crown Lands the village system should eceive consideration. In France it is *the* system.

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COMPETITIONS IN CLARENDON.—The Instructor for Clarendon vrites:—

There are up to the present ten competitions arranged for Claren-on during the coming year. The first is Crofts Hill to come off in anuary, 1918. In this competition prizes subscribed by the Clarendon how Fund and by influential members will be given for the best uarter acre of ground provisions consisting of at least five varieties. he other competitions are those named on page 418 of the OCTOBER OURNAL. The name appearing as Dr. Sherlock should be Dr. Strud-vick. Dr. Sherlock is in Westmoreland, not in Clarendon. Inspector urchas has since added two guineas to the list, one guinea to Kellits-Chapelton, and the other to Crofts Hill.

I propose judging Crooked River and the fields in the Brennon Competition in August, Mocho and Frankfield in September, Kellits Chapelton and Blackwoods in October and Crofts Hill, Far Enough nd Rock River in November.

It would be interesting to have a competition of the first prize oldings in the district named for a championship prize, the judging o be done by the Secretary of the Agricultural Society and other nterested gentlemen. If it is possible to raise the money for the

prizes this may be arranged for. A large Food Show to come off in Chapelton in Easter week, 1918, is also being planned. The Clarendon Show Committee meets shortly to complete the arrangements. This show will not only take in vegetable products, but also animals which are food producers. Exhibits will be the products of Clarendon. The object is to give a greater impetus to the production of food.

(Sgd.) S. A. SCHLEIFER.

Chapelton.

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HURRICANE.—The hurricane for the third year in succession has altered the whole situation as regards food supplies. It is a blow to this Society because so much had been done by every agency of the Society and especially by the Agricultural Instructors to increase the food supplies of Jamaica that it is disappointing and depressing to have again to begin our campaign over again and under far more difficult circumstances.

Although the effects of the hurricane are not great outside of Portland and St. Thomas, still a good deal of damage has been done to crops which can be ill afforded at this time. There will be an especial set-back to the increase in yams, the best varieties of which are very slow to propagate any because this cultivation had been given up in recent years in many places for bananas, and is now being renewed. After such a storm as we have had although the yams may not be destroyed they invariably get a set-back from the whipping the vines have been subjected to.

In the Port Royal Mountains district, the crop of red kidney beans ("red peas") is an important one to the growers and to Kingston, as bein a large source of supply of these favourite beans. There were, literally speaking, miles of these planted along the mountain slopes and we were looking forward to abundant supplies very shortly. 75% of the crop was destroyed and to restore the equilibrium seed has to be supplied from other districts. Fortunately the parish of Manchester which is also a large source of production of these beans, escaped the storm, and some very limited supplies were got there for transfer. We also imported supplies.

Yam heads will again be in great demand for extension of this important food crop. We can get supplies if orders are sent in early.

The large crop of corn fortunately was mostly reaped, except some late corn, and young corn planted from the middle of August mostly escaped. We are glad to say that at this date—the middle of November—planting of corn has gone right on out of the usual season stimulated by the experience that we usually gets good rains for the season following a great storm. We have had calls for seed corn right up to date.

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YAM HEADS.—Yam heads would have been a great deal more plentiful this year than last year, but owing to the hurricane in the east end there has been a very great loss there and a good many cultivators will have to begin all over again. West Portland was offering yam heads for sale last year, but will need them all themselves this year. However, we shall be able to get small supplies from different districts where there is no luck. A good many members of Branch Societies also have offered to give a few yam heads each to help those suffering around Manchioneal who lost all their yams and plants.

Saint Vincent Yams are a very good standby for poor soils and for dry weather, but do not seem able to stand the effect of heavy rains. They are not bearing well this year. White Yams have become scarce during these last few years. They are not such strong growers as other kinds and require very good land, or manured land. Then during the drought years the St. Vincent and "Renta" (also called Barbados and Trinidad) which stand dry conditions and grow on poor land, crept into prominence and became common. With good seasons the real White Yam can be bred up again.

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SEED CORN.—The value of good seed corn and good cultivation is shown by the following:—From 31 chains of land planted with bananas 14 x 14 and only two rows of corn up the middle the result was 96 bushels of corn.

Supposing corn got the elaborate cultivation usually required and given to bananas—forking or ploughing the land deep, trenching heavy land to present water lying or sourness, and hillside land to prevent "wash," good weeding, and pruning out superfluous stalks or poor ones—what would be the result? If we take 20 bushels as a good average yield in Jamaica with the ordinary cultivation given to corn—chop holes, one weeding and no thinning—we should look for four times more from real cultivation. And that is how it worked out last season when banana growers new to growing corn, gave the crop real cultivation.

Would the extra cultivation and care pay? In the present times there is no doubt about it. Corn crops have given over £10 an acre return in many instances last season.

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ARTS AND CRAFTS COMPETITIONS.—The Institute of Jamaica will hold its usual Competitions in Arts and Crafts in March and April, 1918, when there will be an Exhibition in Kingston from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. All objects sent in for Competition must have been produced in Jamaica subsequent to January 1st, 1916, and be sent in to Gardner's store, Harbour St., Kingston, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on March 8th or 9th. Exhibits for loan or competition will be carried to Kingston on the railway free of charge and returned free to the Station from whence they came if not sold meanwhile. Anyone interested can get full information from the Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica, Kingston.

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SHOWS.—While no Agricultural Shows of the ordinary kind under the direct auspices of this Society are being held during war time this has not lessened the enthusiasm and activities of many of the Branch Societies. They have adapted themselves to the situation, and undaunted by hurricanes and embargoes have been busy arranging for Food Shows to show what they have been doing. The Hanover Branch held such a Show at Lucea and the May Pen Branch held a Grain Show at May Pen. A good many others were arranging for Shows when the last hurricane came along. Although such activities have been checked in the East where the hurricane did such enormous damage, this has not dismayed the Branches in other districts. In addition, there are more competitions being carried through now than in any previous time in this Island's history. The foremost parish in the line of competitions is Clarendon with eleven different

competitions; a list of these was given on page No. 418 of the October JOURNAL. In addition, a Food Show on a large scale is being planned to be held in Clarendon in Easter week of 1918. The following Food Shows have already been arranged:—Nain, St. Elizabeth, January 1st, 1918, and New Roads, Westmoreland on the same date.

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## BRANCH NOTES.

TOWER HILL (St. James.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 4th October. There were present, eleven members, the Agricultural Instructor. J. Briscoe, and one visitor, who afterwards became a member. The President being absent, Mr. H. R. Tharpe, the Vice-President, presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The sugar question was discussed at length. The Instructor, among other things, pointed out the great wisdom of planting potatoes, cocoes, cassava and other food stuffs to which storms cannot do much damage. After dealing with sundry other matters, the meeting adjourned to the 1st Thursday in November.

H. R. THARPE, Reporting Secretary.

LETHE (St. James.)—This Branch held its regular monthly meeting on October 13. Present, eight members, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Briscoe, the Instructor, and three visitors. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Briscoe very kindly presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. C. M. Scott (jnr.) read a selection from the JOURNAL on corn-growing and the Instructor addressed the meeting. Both gentlemen were heartily thanked. It was resolved that a Concert be got up to raise funds for purchasing a Grind Stone. Mr. Briscoe briefly pointed out the benefits derived from being a member of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and advised the members to take a deeper interest in their Branch. The National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

(Miss) S. M. VASSALL, Secretary.

SOUTHFIELD (St. Elizabeth).—A regular meeting of this branch came off on October 12. E. J. Smith, Esq., J.P., presided. The Instructor was engaged in work in Manchester. The Chairman advised the planting of sweet cassava among other foodstuffs so as to meet the existing conditions. The government is now surveying lands in these parts and charging 16/- rental per acre per annum for lands not covered by taxation, at the same time those who rent these lands are not to make use of any fruit or other things found thereon. Again the surveyor will not allow the older men to rent the lands on the ground that they are too old to cultivate. The meeting passed a strong resolution on this matter and same was forwarded to the Government through the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society. The meeting then adjourned.

J. J. MILLER, Secretary.

GORDON TOWN.—(St. Andrew.)—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 20th October. There were present: The President, W. H. Hanson; J. Polack, Vice-President; A. P. Hanson, Instructor; U. Duval, Treasurer; W. Gray, Assistant Secretary; Dr. R. H. Davidson, J. Levy and 16 other members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The President presented a favourable report on the corn mill put up at Mr. Bolton's which was under the supervision of Mr. Ferguson. Non-subscribers paid a small fee for using it. Mr. Levy suggested that a sieve should be bought for the use of those grinding their corn. The President promised to purchase one from the amount collected from non-subscribers. Mr. Ferguson gave his report of the mill he had received, 4/11, equal 3 bushels 22 quarts corn for non-subscribers. Mr. S. Harriett explained that he had some corn ground by the mill and the meal was splendid. He said that it was much better than the meal in the shops. The members explained to the Instructor the extent of damage done to their crops by the recent storm. The greatest damage was done to bananas, plantains, yams, peas and vegetables. Mr. Levy advised the planting of Chinese bananas as they would withstand the wind far better than the Martinique bananas. He also said that in sticking the yams the poles should not be put in deep neither should they be put on trees as they would get battered and in many cases the vines get cut off during the storm. Mr. Polack agreed with what Mr. Levy had said. The Instructor agreed with both gentlemen and then spoke forcibly on foodstuffs. He urged members to plant so as to keep off starvation. He also urged them to care their coffee as he believes that a good market is in store for them after the war. Dr. R. H. Davidson advised

the rearing of small stock, especially goats. The Instructor then showed a piece of coconut stem which was diseased and which he had taken from the trunk of a tree from a nearby property. He explained how the disease was caused, how the cabbage of the trree was affected, and how injurious it was to the other coconut trees. He said that as soon as a tree was discovered the best remedy to use was blue stone and lime mixed in a liquid form and poured into the heart of the tree. The Assistant Secretary moved a vote of thanks to the Instructor for his instructive address. The meeting came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

W. GRAY, Assistant Secretary.

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VERE (Clarendon.)—This Branch held a monthly meeting at Alley on Thursday, 25th October. There were present: Messrs. R. C. Campbell, President; C. C. Lewis, Treasurer, several members and the Secretary. Five new members were elected. Arising out of the minutes, the question of Hookworm disease came up, when one of the new members, Mr. A. Spooner, gave a very instructive account of the life history of the parasite, and the steps taken by the Rockfeller Foundation in the Island of Antigua for its eradication from the system of the labouring population. Much of the so-called laziness among the labouring population of the West Indies was due to the parasite, and it is surprising that no definite and general steps have been taken in Jamaica to eradicate the ravages of the Hookworm. A vote of thanks and of welcome back to this island was accorded him, to which he suitably replied, and pointed out the need of co-operation to make any business agricultural or commercial, a success. The Island of Antigua, though not as favourably situated as Jamaica as far as rainfall or soil was concerned, was on the road to success through co-operation. The report of the Secretary of the coconut nursery showed that three hundred plants had been sold to members, and that two hundred more would soon be fit for sale. The proposal to buy a corn mill met with ready support. The Treasurer was instructed to get one for the use of the Society. A. L. NEITA, Secretary.

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JACKSON TOWN (Trelawny.)—At the last meeting of this Branch held on the 15th October, there were present: Messrs. M. L. Walters, Vice-President; A. A. Ferguson, Treasurer; C. T. Saunders, Secretary; Martin Rennie, Instructor, and twelve members. Regret was expressed at the delay over the purchase of the corn mill and the Secretary was instructed to write urging those who have not already paid up to do so without delay. Officers were next elected in connection with the Emergency Bank:—Trustees, Rev. W. S. Lea; Miss R. Ferguson, Mr. A. Ferguson; Manager, Mr. M. L. Walters; Treasurer, Rev. W. S. Lea; Auditors, Messrs. M. L. Walters and C. T. Saunders. The members expressed themselves strongly on the present necessity for land and requested the Secretary to represent the matter again to the Parent Society. Mr. Rennie referred to the recent hurricane and extended his sympathy to the cultivators, who had suffered thereby. He also gave valuable suggestions with regard to the replanting of their banana fields.

C. T. SAUNDERS, Secretary.

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WILMINGTON (St. Thomas.)—On the 27th September, the regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held. Mr. I. J. Martin, the President, presided. Before the minutes could be confirmed, in the absence of the Asst. Secretary, a Secretary had to be appointed. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and business arising therefrom were discussed: (a) Cornmill; (b) Praedial Larceny; (c) Financial condition of the Society. Correspondence was also read and dealt with. Many members have lost houses and cultivations—bananas, coconuts, coco trees. The Secretary must get seeds from the Secretary of the Parent Society. The meeting adjourned till October 18th, when Mr. Wates is expected to be here to lecture on catch crops.

S. JAS. PALMER, Secretary.

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TRINITY VILLE (St. Thomas.)—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 10th October. There were present: Messrs. W. A. R. Can, President; A. P. Hanson, Agricultural Instructor; J. T. Edman, Secretary, and a fair number of members. Read and confirmed minutes of the previous meeting. Read letters from Mr. Barclay *re* vegetable seeds and intimating that Mr. J. Bogle having resigned his name is struck off the list of Authorized Persons. It was agreed to purchase 8/- worth of vegetable seed for free distribution to members. The Secretary was asked to send report regularly for publication in the Journal. A new member was elected. Mr. Hanson gave a lengthy and instructive address, encouraging one and all to put their shoulders to the wheel to resuscitate their devastated cultivations and replace houses destroyed by the recent hurricane. In the matter of cultivations

he advised strongly the planting of such crops as will yield a quick return. Some members agreed to purchase seed potatoes, and the Secretary was asked to get quotations. The meeting then adjourned. J. T. EDMAN, Secretary.

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BYBROOK (Portland).—A meeting of this Branch was held here on October 4th 1917 There were present Messrs. J H. Sutherland, Vice-President; A. E. Gunter, Instructor; H. E. Carby, Assistant Secretary; R. M. Burgess, Treasurer; and 22 other members. The Secretary not being able to attend, the minutes of the previous meeting were not read. Mr. Gunter apologized for non-attendance for the past three months explaining that he had been given a larger district to look after. He gave an account of his visits to the other storm-stricken districts and showed the members the seriousness of the position, which they would have to face within a few months. It was found out that the things most needed in this district were cow peas, black eye peas, red peas, corn and yam heads. The different items on the agenda were dealt with viz., Food problem, Loans and extension of time to repay loans; help to sufferers by the recent hurricane. It was thought necessary to ask for a few tents to house some of the sufferers. It was agreed that the Government be asked to open up work on the roads so as to furnish work for the labouring class. Four new members were elected. The National Anthem was sung, and the meeting came to a close.

H. E. CARBY, Asst. Secretary

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BELVEDERE (Portland.)—On October 5th, this Society had its meeting. The President was in the Chair, and Mr. Gunter, the Instructor, was present. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence from the Parent Society *re* Journals was read. Authorized Persons report no arrests. The Instructor gave *the necessary hints re the resuscitation of the storm damaged crops. Rats are still* a nuisance, and the members have decided to subscribe to purchase poison. Business being through, the meeting adjourned. The Secretary was unavoidably absent, the notes were taken by the Instructor, and left for the Secretary.

R. J. LAWSON RICKETTS, Secretary.

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PORTLAND CENTRAL (Portland.)—A meeting of this Branch was held in the St. Margaret's Bay Schoolroom on October 16th. There were present: Rev. P. A. Conahan, presiding; J. S. Williams, Esq., one of the Vice-Presidents, and a fairly large number of members. There was a detailed discussion on the results of the hurricane, the number of houses destroyed in the district; the serious food situation and methods of coping with it; and relief work on the roads, etc. The meeting then adjourned. L. J. MORGAN, Secretary.

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BANGOR RIDGE (Portland.)—There was a large attendance of members, including the Secretary and visitors at the meeting of this Branch on the 11th October. The principal subject for discussion at this meeting was the conditions arising from the recent hurricane and methods of dealing with them, especially as regarded building materials from the nearby Crown Lands and the property "Mayfield", belonging to the Parochial Board. Mr. E. A. Gunter, the Agricultural Instructor, who had promised to be present, did not find it possible to attend.

B. A. CRAWFORD CASE, Secretary.

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MT. HERMON (Portland.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Society was held on the 10th October. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Mr. Gunter, the Instructor, was asked to preside. The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, a discussion *re* a corn mill was engaged in, when it was decided to devote 16/- of the funds of the Society to the purchase of same, which sum is to be augmented by a subscription of 2/- from each member. The members regretted that owing to the hurricane they could not carry out the proposal to send food, etc., to needy people in Kingston. The Instructor reviewed the condition of things as they now are, brought about by the hurricane of September 23rd, and expressed his sympathy for those who have suffered. He promised to send cow peas and seed corn and yam heads later. The accounts of the Penny Bank are to be presented at the next meeting. It was decided to approach the Government respecting fallen trees for lumber on the Crown Lands through the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and a resolution for the purpose is to be drafted by the Secretary and Mr. A. Tucker. There were present, the Instructor, the Secretary, 10 members and two visitors. H. W. HAY, Secretary.

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ST. MARY (Central.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held

in the Eliot Schoolroom on the 1st November. Present: Rev. F. W. Core, President; four other members; two visitors and Messrs. Banks and Jones, Assistant Instructors, who were heartily welcomed by the President. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Read letter from .Mr Cradwick, expressing his regret not being ahle to visit the Branch meetings for some time having to be away in Portland and St. Thomas, which parishes have been severely storm stricken. Other correspondence was also read and dealt with, informing the Society from September 10th that vegetable seeds were expected soon, and advised it would be economical for Branch Societies to order and distribute to members. Some pumpkin seeds and pamphlets on the following were also distributed:—"Storm damage and suggestions for Planting," A. P. Hanson, "What is to be done in St. Mary," W. Cradwick; "Quick growing foodstuff," "Irish Potatoes," Jamaica Agricultural Society. Mr. Banks addressed the meeting for a short time and gave briefly an account of the loss sustained by the parishes of Portland and St .Thomas. Mr. Jones gave a lengthy and instructive lecture on the growing of Irish potatoes, preparation of the soil and planting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded both speakers. The meeting then adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem.

F. A. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

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CLIFTON- NEWSTEAD (St. Mary.)—At the regular monthly meeting which was held at Lodge on the 1st October, there were present 15 members, and one visitor. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. President read letter from Parochial Board, St. Ann, *re* bridge over White River at Newstead. Suggested a reminder be sent the St. Mary Board urging a start in the work owing to the danger now incurred to pedestrians, chiefly since the recent storm. The question of obtaining rentable lands cheap was discussed in detail. Information from Parent Society showed that seeds were to hand. Secretary was accordingly instructed to order a sufficient amount of cabbage , turnip, garden egg and tomato seeds. Meeting closed with singing of National Anthem. F. ALEX. SMITH, Rep. Secty.

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MAHOE HILL (St. Mary.)—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Schoolroom on 4th October. Present: E. E. Williams, Vice-President, presiding; S. Guscott Treasurer, the Secretary and 11 members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom dealt with. Correspondence was also read. The Authorized Persons reports were presented. A resolution, asking the Government for an extension of time for the payment of loans, in view of the recent hurricane, was passed. Other matters were discussed. After an address by the President, urging upon members the necessity for keeping up the Branch by attending the monthly meetings and paying their subscriptions, the National Anthem was sung and the meeting adjourned until the 1st Monday of November, 1917. J. Z. JOHNSON, Secretary.

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EPSOM (St. Mary.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held to-day. There were 19 members present. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Mr. Jas. E. Marshall was voted to the Chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discussed. Pumpkin seeds from the Parent Society were distributed to the members present. Owing to the small attendance of members it was thought advisable to defer the order for seeds to a later date. The meeting was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem. D. S. LALOR, Secretary.

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ALBION MOUNTAINS (St. Mary.)—The Regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on October 4th. Fifteen members were present. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising out of these discussed. Correspondence was also read and dealt with. Hon. R. P. Simmonds wrote stating his regret at not being present. It was decided that the Parent Society be asked to put before the Committee *re* the Authorized Persons Law, the necessity of proper protection for them in connection with their duties. It was further stated that all the Branches be circularized on the matter. Authorized Persons presented their reports. T. A. GRAY, Secretary.

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MARLBOROUGH (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 11th October. There were present: Messrs. Z. Ffrench (in the Chair); J. S. Ford, 2nd V.P. Seventeen other members, two visitors and the Asst. Secretary. Minutes of previous meeting was read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discussed. Eight Authorized Persons presented favourable reports for the month. The question of land for planting food crops was again brought

up for discussion. The Secretary was authorized to write to Sir John Pringle askir him to show his sympathy with the members of this Society at this critical junctur by renting them a little land to cultivate. After dealing with sundry other matte the meeting adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem.

J. A. DIXON, Asst. Secretary.

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LABYRINTH (St. Mary.)—On the 16th October the monthly meeting was helc Mr. Ransel Moncrieffe, the V.P., presided. There were present, 15 members an a visitor. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondenc from Mr. Cradwick was read which shows that he is not likely to visit this Branc in November, owing to his having to give his attention to the stricken districts Discussion *re* the Corn Competition followed. Many of the members are willin to compete, but lack of land prevents their doing so. It was decided that the lan cultivated must not be more than a square chain, and planting must be done nc later than 31st October. Each competitor is requested to pay an entrance fee c sixpence. This must be brought in not later than 6th November. It is agree that the money for the prizes be taken from the Fund of the Society. Four prize will be given. At this stage report of Authorized Persons was given which showe that praedial larceny is on the decrease in the district. Mr. Harold Williams wa nominated an Authorized Person. Those members who have not yet paid thei subscription were asked to do so as early as possible. It was agreed that at th next meeting a debate will be held on "The War or the Hurricane—which doe more damage" After a few minor matters, the meeting adjourned with the singin of the National Anthem. O. ALFONSO GOHAGEN, Secreary.

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RICHMOND (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was helc in the Richmond Road Schoolroom on the 17th inst. There were present Wm. Cradwick, the Instructor, the 1st Vice-President. Mr. W. R. Thomas, th Treasurer; T. Davis, W. M. Harrison, the Secretary, and twenty-three othe members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and matter arising therefrom dealt with. Mr. W. R. Thomas was elected President in place o H. B. Wolcott, Esq., who is away in America, and Mr. N. Service was elected 1s Vice-President. The Instructor then reminded the Society of the Half Yearly Meeting He said that each Branch should bear it in mind, and make the necessary preparatio for the next meeting. There followed a discussion with regard to the Jippi Japp hat industry to be taken up by this Branch. It was decided to hold over th matter till early next year when it is hoped that circumstances will be more favourable There were no reports from Authorized Persons, only three new ones being present the Instructor pointed out that if Authorized Persons do not take an interest in th meetings and attend them regularly, it should be reported to the Secretary of th Parent Society. He then introduced the two new Assistant Instructors, viz., Messr Banks and Jones, each of whom addressed the meeting very interestingly. Th Instructor then spoke on the damage done by the hurricane, which was very grea in the parishes of Portland and St. Thomas. The next regular meeting was fixe for the last Wednesday in November. The singing of the National Anthem brough an interesting meeting to a close. W. M. HARRISON, Secretary.

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ROCK RIVER (St. Mary.)—At the regular monthly meeting of this Branc held on the 19th October, there were present, Mr. R. Glover, V.P.; the Secretary 19 other members, and four visitors. Minutes of the previous meeting were rea and confirmed. One member was nominated, and two paid in their subscriptions Arising out of the minutes, matters relating to the extension of the New Road, and th prevention of animals feeding on the roads were discussed. Correspondence fron the Instructor *re* his coming absence from the Branch for some time owing to im portant work elsewhere was read. The tools purchased for the use of the Societ were put in the care of Mr. O. Danvers. An article entitled "Co-operation" wa read from the September Journal. Some minor matters were dealt with, afte which the meeting terminated with the National Anthem.

H. LIVINGSTONE, Secretary.

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TRYALL HILL (St. Mary.)—On the 29th October, the regular monthly meetin of the Society was held, present: Mr. D. N. Roper, V.P., in the Chair; four othe members, and the Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting being read and con firmed, the following matters were dealt with. Free envelopes, relief work, etc breaking of the Sabbath, report of Authorized Persons. The meeting closed wit the National Anthem. A. A. CONSTABLE, Secretary.

CASTLETON (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was ıld on 11th October. Rev. Mr. Robertson presided, and the Secretary and several the other members were present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read ıd confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discussed. Resolutions *re* the urgent ecessity for Government aid in the present crisis was passed; (b) extension of time r repayment of loans; (c) the state of the roads in the district were passed. The eeting then adjourned. A. PICKERSGILL, Secretary.

CHRISTIANA (Manchester.)—The regular meeting of this Branch was held on ctober 5th, E. A. Bayley, Esq. (Chairman) presiding. A. Walder, Esq., Vice-hairman, 8 other members and the Secretary were also present. Minutes of last ieeting read and confirmed. Correspondence read and discussed. Schemes for ılivening the meetings and arousing the interest of members were discussed. Sug-estions were made to get one or all the following useful articles:—(a) a probang; ) a grindstone; (c) a cornmill. Nothing definite was arrived at and the proposals ere left over for next meeting, to be held December 7th, 1917.

W. M. O'MEALLY, Secretary.

MORAVIA (Manchester.)—The bi-monthly meeting of this Society was held ı the 11th instant at 4 o'clock. Mr. L. R. Flemming (President), Rev. W. R. forris (Vice-President, Mr. S. A. Schleifer, Instructor and 7 members were present. he minutes of the last meeting were read, amended and confirmed. Two recently ominated "Authorized Persons" were received by the Society. Circular *re* urchase of seeds by the Society was dealt with. Mr. Schleifer advised the members ) regulate their planting so that they could have an abundance of foodstuffs through-ut the year in consequence of the shortage of imported food. A new member was ected. The Instructor advised that certain gentlemen around the district be pproached to give a prize for the best improved holdings in the district. The lational Anthem ended the meeting. J. N SIMPSON, Secretary.

MIZPAH (Manchester.)—The regular meeting of this Branch was held on the 9th October. The Instructor was present. The following business was dealt ith:—1. Reading and confirmation of minutes. 2. Election of President: The ev. F. Weiss, the former President, having removed to a new sphere of labour, ıe Rev. G. H. Lopp was unanimously elected President of the Society. He gave few suggestions *re* growth of plants, mulching, manuring and stock-rearing. 3. 'ormation of a Committee to report on the Land Question. 4. Committee was lected to report on the purchasing of tools for the use of the Society. 5. Report of uthorized Persons. The Secretary feels that if suitable men were appointed to be uthorized Persons in each district praedial larceny would be checked. 6. Lecture y Instructor who dwelt on "Quick Crops." He showed how Irish and Sweet 'otatoes can be grown to advantage, and gave some useful suggestions. Meeting erminated with the singing of the National Anthem. D. J. LEWIS, Secretary.

MT. INDUSTRY (St. Catherine.)—The regular meeting of this Branch was held n the 3rd October. The Vice-President, Mr. T. E. Lawrence, presided. The gricultural Instructor, Mr. A. P. Hanson, the Secretary and twelve other members vere present. The situation created by the recent hurricane was discussed, and is believed the Government will have to start relief work here next year at least, o relieve the situation which threatens to become serious as this district was hard iit—about thirteen houses of poor people blown away. Mr. Hanson spoke encourag-ngly to the meeting, and tried to instil hopefulness in the cultivators. He advised hem as to the best method to adopt to meet the situation. His address was very nuch welcomed and very well received Praedial larceny, which was just before the torm, on the decrease, is now getting rampant. To cope with this evil, the formation f a Vigilant Committee is being thought of. R. SIMEON ANGLIN, Secretary.

UPPER ST. JOHN'S (St. Catherine.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was eld on the 9th October. The President being absent, the V.P., Mr. H. E. Wisdom, ook the Chair. There were present, 15 members and a few visitors. The minutes vere read and confirmed, and matters arising from them were dealt with. A paper n Manure was read by the Secretary, for which he was thanked. It was suggested o have a competition among the members of the Branch. Mr. J. H. Nelson, for he Instructor, who visited the district, but could not remain to the meeting, spoke on eeds, corn, and sugar factory. He also took the names of members who required eeds (including Irish Potatoes) for planting. Mr. J. A. Banks tendered his resigna-tion as a member of the Branch. A note of his valuable services will be recorded

in the minutes. Two Authorized Persons presented reports. The agenda for next meeting was fixed, and the meeting terminated. E. THOS. HAMILTON, Secretary.

GLENGOFFE (St. Catherine.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Grateful Hill Schoolroom October 2, 1917. Among those present were: Alex. Carey, Esq., J.P., presiding: Revs. T. Whitfield and C. A. Spencer; A. P. Hanson, Esq., Agricultural Instructor, 13 members anld the Secretary. The minutes were read and confirmed and two new members were elected. The question of the Show was dealt with and deferred for further consideration. A resolution *re* relief work and the deviation of Cassava River and Streadwick Hills, was unanimously adopted. Sympathy with Mr. Spencer on the damage done to his Church was expressed. The Instructor addressed the meeting, and was given a vote of thanks. The Authorized Persons presented their reports. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Barclay and order some peas, vegetable seeds, etc. The question of co-operation was touched upon, and Rev. Whitfield and Mr. Hanson promised to outline a scheme for local co-operation. T. E. COOTE, Secretary.

Notes from the following Branches have also been received,:—Benbow, Hiattsfield (St. Ann); Windsor Forest, Swift River (Portland); Thornton, Somerset St. Thomas); Waldensia, Duncans( Trelawny); Windsor Castle, Camberwell, Broadgate, Belfield, Preston (St. Mary); Merrywood (St. Elizabeth); Rose Hall, Maldon, Cambridge (St. James); Mile Gully, Snowdon (Manchester); Maidstone (Manchester); Linstead, Philipsburgh (Saint Catherine); Bethel Town (Westmoreland); Dalmally (Hanover).

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## COMMENTS.

CORN.—We have been asked how much corn Jamaica produced for the summer crop. There was not less than 200,000 bushels actually reaped, and probably 5 per cent. more was eaten by small settlers from their fields as green corn. We ordinarily import about 250,000 bushels taking an average of 5 years but in 1916 we only imported 168,140 bushels,

The crop to be reaped in January and Febuary from the August and September planting will not probably be over 100,000 bushels, but as we have stated on another page, there will be some corn coming in from later plantings in October and November,—planted on the chance of good seasons,—right on to May. If seasons favour, an early planting in the middle of January should be made wherever possible, and the crops would then be due in June and come in very handy to fill up a gap until the main crop comes in August again. We can very easily be independent of imported supplies of corn and cornmeal by the larger landowners growing some corn. A good many showed a good example last season. One reaped over 5000 bushels. And by using 25% of cornmeal in bread we can do our duty in the present wheat shortage.

No embargoes on any foodstuffs would frighten us (only storms would we fear) if we had only the organized and systematic effort to grow quick and useful food crops which should have been already made and will certainly be forced upon us. We have abundance of good lands lying idle or only under pasture suitable for corn, peas and beans, (especially the hardy and prolific cowpea) and sweet potatoes. The most useful of all our food crops is corn and it is one of the quickest as it can be eaten green in three months. Certainly all the burden of raising food crops should not be thrown on the small settler with his limited area of land.